NATION

Delhi riots: No offence made out under UAPA, says Shifa-ur-Rehman

≫ Page: 4 ≪

BUSINESS

Sensex snaps 2-day falling streak, climbs 40 points

≫ Page: 7 ≪

SPORTS

BCCI announces ₹ 51 cr for Women's World Cup winners

≫ Page: 8 ≪

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B'luru Metro Pink Line dream to become reality by May 2026

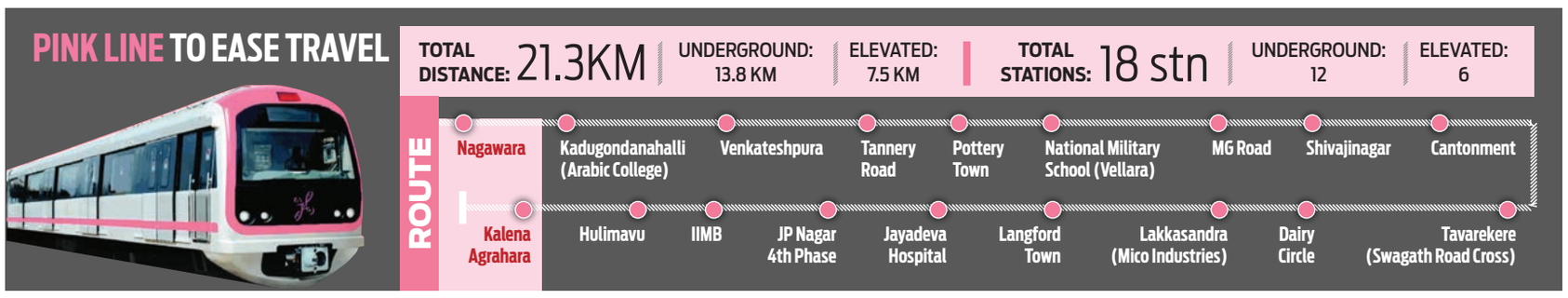
BENGALURU, 3 NOV

The Bengaluru Metro Pink Line, one of the City's most complex metro projects, is set to become operational by May 2026, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar confirmed on Monday. The 13.76-km corridor from Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara includes a 2.5-km elevated stretch and a 13.76-km underground section.

The line is being executed in two phases. The first phase, a 13.92km section with six elevated and six underground stations from Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere (Swagath Cross Road), is targeted for commissioning by May 2026. The remaining underground stretch between Dairy Circle and Nagawara is also scheduled to open around the same time. BMRCL has completed all tunnelling work and is now focused on underground station construction and systems integration.

Once operational, the Jayadeva interchange will fully link the Pink Line to the Yellow Line, benefiting thousands travelling between southern tech corridors and northern business districts.

Four train sets will operate initially, supplied by BEML, which is manufacturing 318 coaches for BMRCL, including 96 coaches (16 train sets) earmarked for the Pink Line. —*PTI*



Seizures surpass Rs 100 cr in poll-bound states

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

The Election Commission on Monday said enforcement agencies have seized illegal cash, drugs, liquor and other freebies worth at least Rs 100 crore from poll-bound Bihar and other states where assembly by-elections are scheduled. The items included Rs 9.62 crore in cash, liquor worth Rs 42.14 crore (9.6 lakh litres), drugs worth Rs 24.61 crore and other freebies worth over Rs 26 crore. Bihar Assembly polls in two phases are on 6 and 11 November. Voting for assembly bypolls in eight constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, Odisha, Jharkhand, Mizoram, Punjab, Telangana and Rajasthan is on 11 November. Counting of votes is on 14 November. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

Zubeen murdered, chargesheet to be filed in Dec: CM

TEZPUR, 3 NOV

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday claimed that singer Zubeen Garg was murdered in Singapore, where he died under mysterious circumstances while swimming on 19 September during the North East India Festival. Sarma said a charge-sheet would be filed by 8 December, ahead of the 17 December deadline, and that the state was awaiting mandatory clearance from the Union Home Ministry. A CID-led SIT is probing the case after over 60 FIRs were filed. Seven people, including NEIF organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta, Garg's manager, two bandmates , his cousin DSP Sandipan Garg, and two PSOs, are in custody over conspiracy charges.—*PTI*

Sabarimala gold theft: Potti held in another case

PATHANAMTHITTA, 3 NOV

The SIT probing the Sabarimala gold theft case on Monday arrested sponsor Unnikrishnan Potti in another case related to the missing gold from the door frames of the sreekovil (sanctum sanctorum), police said. Acting on a Kerala High Court directive, the Special Investigation Team had registered two separate cases on the theft of gold from the dwarapalaka (guardian deity) idol plates and the 'sreekovil' door frames. Potti was earlier arrested for the theft of gold from the 'dwarapalaka' plates. Following a production warrant, he was produced before the Judicial First Class Magistrate Court in Ranni on Monday. The court granted the SIT Potti's custody for 10 days. —*PTI*

Shah Bano's daughter moves HC against 'HAQ'

INDORE, 3 NOV

The release of Emraan Hashmi's film 'HAQ' has been challenged in the Indore Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, with Shah Bano's daughter, Siddiqua Begum, seeking a stay on its 7 November premiere. Her counsel, Tauseef Warsi, said the filmmakers used Shah Bano's name and life story without the family's consent, violating her right to privacy. Siddiqua earlier issued a legal notice to the makers, including director Suparn S Varma, Junglee Pictures, Baweja Studios and the CBFC, demanding they halt the film's release and promotion. Haq is reportedly based on the landmark 1985 Supreme Court judgment on Shah Bano's right to maintenance. —*PTI*

Trump: Pak testing nukes, war with India would've killed lakhs

Trump says Shebaz was ready to start nuke war

WASHINGTON DC, 3 NOV

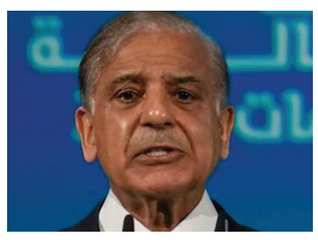
US President Donald Trump has claimed that Pakistan and China are secretly testing nuclear weapons, insisting that the United States must resume its own tests to maintain "nuclear order".

Speaking to CBS's '60 Minutes', Trump also claimed he averted a nuclear war between India and Pakistan in May, saying the two countries were "on the verge" of a catastrophic clash after several aircraft were downed.

He claimed that "millions would have been dead" if he had not stepped in.

"The Prime Minister of Pakistan stood up the other day and he said, If Donald Trump didn't get involved, many millions of people would be dead right now, That was a bad war he was ready to start", he said.

Trump alleged that Russia and North Korea were also conducting covert detonations, while accusing China and Pakistan of testing "way underground where people don't know exactly what's happening".



Trump's remarks come amid global concern after he wrote on Truth Social that he had instructed US officials to "start testing" nuclear weapons following a 33-year moratorium. However, US Energy Secretary Chris Wright clarified the administration is not planning nuclear explosions, saying only "non-critical" tests of components were underway and that residents near the Nevada test site had "no cause for concern".

If Pakistan and China are indeed testing nuclear weapons, the implications for India are serious. India, which has not conducted a nuclear test since 1998 and follows a no-first-use doctrine, maintains an estimated 180 warheads, far fewer than China's 600-strong and rapidly expanding arsenal, and roughly comparable to Pakistan's 170. China's major advancements, including its 2021 Fractional Orbital Bombardment System (FOBS) test, pose growing strategic challenges.

Lingering doubts over India's 1998 Pokhran-II thermonuclear test—claimed by former DRDO scientist K Santhanam to have "fizzled", have renewed debate on whether New Delhi needs a fresh round of tests. —*Agencies*

Darshan, Pavithra charged with Renukaswamy's murder

BENGALURU, 3 NOV

A Sessions Court on Monday formally framed charges, including murder and kidnapping, against Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, his associate Pavithra Gowda, and 15 others in connection with the Renukaswamy murder case.

All 17 accused pleaded not guilty, paving the way for the trial to commence on 10 November.

The courtroom was packed during the proceedings here, prompting Judge IP Naik to express displeasure over the crowding. "How can charges be framed with so many people here?" he remarked, instructing lawyers not involved in the case to leave.

The judge also cautioned that the hearing would be postponed — or even held in-camera — if order was not maintained. Once calm was restored, the court began reading the charges, starting with the first accused, Pavithra Gowda. The charges included murder, criminal conspiracy, kidnapping, and unlawful assembly.

Actors Darshan, Pavithra Gowda & Renukaswamy ***PHOTO: ANI***

According to the chargesheet, Renukaswamy had allegedly sent obscene messages to Pavitra, following which he was kidnapped, brought to a shed in Bengaluru, and assaulted.

The prosecution alleged that Pavithra struck Renukaswamy with a slipper, while Darshan assaulted him after forcing him to remove his pants, leading to his death. The court also noted that some accused were allegedly offered money to take the blame.

Darshan, Pavithra, and seven other accused were then escorted back to prison. —*PTI*

ED ATTACHES ₹7,545 CR ASSETS LINKED TO ANIL AMBANI

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

Assets worth over Rs 7,545 crore linked to Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani, his companies and associates, have been attached by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering probe.

The agency said it issued five provisional attachment orders under the PMLA, covering 42 properties including Ambani's Pali Hill residence in Mumbai, assets of Reliance Infrastructure Ltd (R-Infra) and linked entities.

The attached assets include land and offices in Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Thane, Noida, Hyderabad, Chennai and Andhra Pradesh. R-Infra said its operations wouldn't be hit.

The ED alleged that multiple Reliance Anil Ambani Group companies diverted public funds, raised through loans, in violation of terms. — *PTI*

Student gangraped by 3 near Coimbatore airport

COIMBATORE, 3 NOV

A 20-year-old postgraduate college student was allegedly gangraped by three unidentified men near Coimbatore International Airport late Sunday night. The accused attacked her boyfriend and left him bleeding, and then abducted the woman. Both the woman and her boyfriend are hospitalised.

The crime took place in an isolated area. Police said the student left her private college hostel in Peelamedu around 4.30pm with her boyfriend of five years. They had dinner outside and had parked their car to talk. Around 11pm, three men approached them on a two-wheeler, which cops now say was stolen.

They broke the car's windshield with a stone and dragged the boyfriend out. Police said they threatened him with a knife and then hit him on the head with stones and stick. He received 28 stiches later.

The accused then abducted the woman and took her to a nearby shed and raped her. They left her around 4.30am on Monday without any clothes and threatened her against reporting to the police.

Her boyfriend woke up around 12 am and drove near the airport to seek help from people, who then informed the police. Police then began searching the area and found the woman in an isolated area near a private college, a kilometre away from the airport.

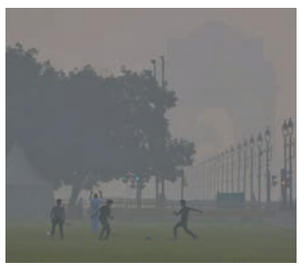
Police are yet to nab the accused.

"The trio stole a two-wheeler near Kovilpalayam and traveled on Airport Road, where they found the girl and her boyfriend together in a car. Seven special teams have been formed to apprehend the culprits," said a police officer.

Police have formed seven special teams to trace and arrest the culprits. —*Agencies*

9 of 37 AQI stns work in Delhi, SC fumes

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV



The Supreme Court on Monday took note of the deadly air pollution in Delhi and said that authorities must not wait for pollution levels to reach a "severe" stage.

A bench comprising Chief Justice BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran, which was hearing the MC Mehta case, directed the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to file an affidavit detailing the steps it has taken to prevent air pollution in Delhi-NCR from deteriorating.

Senior advocate Aparajita Singh, who is assisting the bench as an amicus curiae, flagged media reports indicating that several air quality monitoring stations in Delhi were not functioning during Deepavali.

"Out of 37 monitoring stations, only nine were functioning continuously on the day", she said.

The amicus urged the bench to ensure that CAQM submits clear data and an action plan. On 15 October, the CJI-led bench permitted the sale and bursting of green firecrackers in Delhi-NCR during Deepavali with conditions aimed at balancing tradition and environmental concerns. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 4

Biren's Manipur tapes tampered: SC

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

The Supreme Court on Monday noted that the National Forensic Science Laboratory (NFSL), Gandhinagar, has found the leaked audio clips purportedly linking former Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh to the 2023 ethnic violence to be "tampered with" and unfit for forensic voice comparison.

The bench said the NFSL report indicated clear signs of editing, adding that the disputed clips were not original recordings. The bench was hearing a plea filed by the Kuki Organisation for Human Rights Trust, which has sought an independent SIT probe. The Supreme Court had earlier expressed dissatisfaction with Central Forensic Science Laboratory's examination of the clips. —*PTI*

Centre free to grant AGR relief to Vodafone: SC

In major relief to Vodafone Idea (Vi), the Supreme Court on Monday clarified that the Centre may consider granting relief on the telecom operator's entire adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues. The court noted that Vi had sought reassessment of pending dues and additional demands, and the government is free to examine both. This follows last week's order allowing reassessment without specifying whether it covered only the additional Rs 9,450 crore or the full Rs 83,400 crore liability. Vi shares jumped 9 per cent, adding Rs 8,775.8 crore in value. —*Agencies*

BUS FILLED WITH STONES

19 killed as gravel lorry collides with T'gana bus

HYDERABAD, 3 NOV

Nineteen people, including 13 women and a young girl, were killed and 22 others injured after a tipper lorry carrying gravel collided head-on with a Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) bus in Ranga Reddy district on Monday, officials said.

The accident occurred near Chevella, about 50 km from Hyderabad, when the tipper truck rammed the bus, causing gravel to spill and bury a large portion of the vehicle. Cyberabad Police Commissioner Avinash Mohanty said both drivers died in the crash, adding that the cause will be confirmed after an inquiry, though such collisions typically occur when one vehicle is on the wrong side.

Many passengers were trapped as gravel filled half the bus, and authorities used earth-movers to carry out rescue operations. All passengers were eventually pulled out of the vehicle. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Rs 2 lakh compensation for the families of those killed and Rs 50,000 for the injured. Telangana Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said 72 people were travelling in the bus from Tandur to Hyderabad.

He said the state government would provide Rs 5 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased, along with Rs 2 lakh from TSRTC, and Rs 2 lakh to each injured passenger. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 4

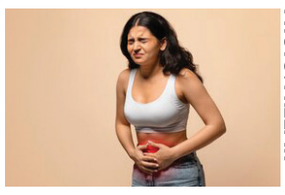


PHOTO: FREEPIK

12 Belagavi students sick due to 'food poisoning'

BELAGAVI, 3 NOV

Twelve students from the Morarji Desai Residential School in Hirekodi village here were hospitalised on Sunday evening following complaints of vomiting and stomach pain, suspected to be caused by food poisoning. Police reported that the students were swiftly taken to a nearby hospital for treatment, and their condition is now stable. This incident comes shortly after a local judge visited the school to reprimand the warden and staff for ongoing hygiene and management issues. Authorities have registered a case, and an investigation is currently underway to determine the cause of the illness. Further updates are expected as the situation develops. *—PTI*

No problem with RSS if they are registered: Priyank

BENGALURU, 3 NOV

Minister Priyank Kharge has raised concerns over the transparency and accountability of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), demanding registration for its activities and a ban on its operations in government schools and state-owned temples. Speaking to reporters, Kharge stated, "I have no problem with the RSS as long as they seek permission from the government... Why are they so scared of Indian laws and the Constitution?" He questioned why RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat was granted Advanced Security Liaison, typically reserved for senior officials. Kharge continued, "If they become transparent and accountable, even I will donate to the RSS... Please tell me which bank account I should donate to." His remarks come amid heightened scrutiny of the RSS's influence. *—ANI*

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

BJP MP Siroya says State ruled by 'mediocre sons'

BENGALURU, 3 NOV

BJP MP Lahar Singh Siroya has lambasted State Minister Priyank Kharge and Congress MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah, claiming the State is "controlled by two mediocre sons" who "stoke needless controversy". Siroya argued that they are "intensely disliked" by party members, but tolerated due to their fathers' influence. He questioned whether their actions are independent or driven by their parents, alleging the two act with arrogance, violating their party's guidelines. Siroya further accused Priyank of echoing Rahul Gandhi's "hate-filled" rhetoric and claimed Yathindra seeks to undermine Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar to maintain his father's power. He expressed hope for a change in State's political landscape this Rajyotsava month. *—PTI*

Rabid dog bites 15 people in Bagalkot district

BAGALKOT, 3 NOV

Fifteen people—five of them children—were hospitalised on Monday after a rabid dog bit several residents in Bagalkot district, officials said. Citing a preliminary inquiry, a senior health official said the dog "attacked" people across different parts of Ilkal, injuring 15, among them five children and four women. All the victims were taken to a hospital, where they were administered anti-rabies injections. Those with severe injuries were also given immunoglobulin, the official said. Five of them were later referred to the district hospital for further treatment, he added. *—PTI*

SC stays HC order on multiplex recording tickets

SC bats for Rs 200 price cap, says 'as it is halls are empty'

NEW DELHI/BENGALURU, 3 NOV

The Supreme Court stayed the Karnataka High Court's order asking multiplexes to maintain a comprehensive and auditable record for every movie ticket sold.

The High Court's division bench had passed the direction on 30 September while hearing a plea against an order of its single judge that had granted an interim stay on the Karnataka Cinemas (Regulation) (Amendment) Rules, 2025, which sought to cap cinema ticket prices at Rs 200.

A plea challenging the division bench order came up for hearing on Monday before a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta.

The counsel for some of the petitioners argued that it wasn't possible for multiplexes to keep track of tickets because tickets were being sold on platforms such as BookMyShow.

PHOTO: FREEPIK

However, the State's counsel countered that the High Court had issued the stay to ensure that the people were refunded when the order was eventually passed.

"This should be fixed," the bench said, while observing that multiplexes were charging Rs 100 for a water bottle.

"As it is, the cinema is declining. Make it more reasonable for people to come and enjoy. Otherwise, the halls are empty," the bench said, adding, "We are with the division bench that it should be Rs 200."

> **As it is, the cinema is declining. Make it more reasonable for people to come and enjoy... We are with the division bench that (ticket prices) should be (capped at) Rs 200.**
>
> —Supreme Court

The bench agreed to hear the plea filed by Multiplex Association of India and others. It issued notice to the Karnataka State Film Chamber of Commerce and others seeking their responses on the plea within four weeks.

"In the meantime, the effect and operation of the impugned order shall remain stayed," the bench said. The top court said it would be open for the single judge to proceed with the matter.

It posted the matter for further hearing on 25 November. *—PTI*

COST OF LIVING

The Railway Department demolished houses near Kadugondanahalli (KG Halli) in the City, claiming the structures were illegally built. The government acquired the land, forcing the residents to stay in nearby tents. Hundreds are now homeless **PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD**

DKS posts video of Gadkari praising tunnel road

BENGALURU, 3 NOV

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar posted on X a video of Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari praising the tunnel road project, slamming BJP leaders who protested on Sunday.

"Gadkari... supported on the tunnel project," he wrote. "State BJP leaders, who are on a warpath, should first listen to their own Union Minister. When tunnel roads are built by the Central government, it's called development - but when we plan one, it is controversial."

Meanwhile, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao slammed the "drama queens," claiming that their opposition delayed the white topping of City's roads. "Bengaluru has not forgotten their opposition to Steel Flyover, " he wrote. *—Salar News*

'NEED NEW RING ROAD'

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurates the statue of former chief minister D Devaraj Urs in Mysuru on Monday. He lauded Urs' contribution to backward communities and expressed displeasure that his followers were comparing him to the State's longest serving CM **PHOTO: SALAR**

Create 15-year blueprint for Mysuru, says CM

MYSURU, 3 NOV

- CM said Mysuru should not face issues like Bengaluru in areas such as traffic, solid waste management, transportation, underground drainage and drinking water

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah directed the district administration officials to prepare a blueprint for Greater Mysuru to prepare a detailed and scientific blueprint for comprehensive development of 'Greater Mysuru' without compromising on the city's "prestige and culture". On a visit to his home district, Siddaramaiah also unveiled a statue of former chief minister D Devaraj Urs at the new Deputy Commissioners office in Mysuru and said there was no instruction from the High Command about a leadership change in the State.

Chairing the first meeting of the Greater Mysore City Corporation held at MCC office in Mysuru, Siddaramaiah said "a scientific plan must be formulated with foresight for the next 15-20 years".

He said Mysuru should not face issues like Bengaluru in areas such as traffic, solid waste management, transportation, underground drainage and drinking water.

"They must develop a peripheral ring road as the city has been expanding rapidly," he remarked.

The meeting comes after months of debates over the demands for creation of a 'Greater Mysuru City Corporation' or 'Bruhat Mysuru Mahanagara Palike' by merging the urban local bodies on the outskirts of Mysuru like the City Municipal Councils and Town Panchayats.

HIGH COMMAND HASN'T SPOKEN

Earlier, Siddaramaiah dismissed speculations about a Chief Minister change – dubbed as the November revolution - saying, "has the Congress High Command said anything about this? Why do you (media) keep talking about it repeatedly? The public isn't talking but only you (the media) are raking up the issue."

CABINET RESHUFFLE

Siddaramaiah said that he will visit New Delhi on 15 November after Bihar poll results to meet High Command. They are expected to discuss the Cabinet reshuffle then. *—Salar News*

'By Dec 2026, govt will give 2L homes to poor'

BENGALURU, 3 NOV

State Housing Minister, Zameer Ahmad Khan, has accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of failing to construct any houses during its time in power, as the Congress-led government aims to distribute 2.3 lakh houses by December 2026. During recent review meetings with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Ahmad emphasised the ongoing commitment to housing despite financial challenges, stating, "It may be difficult to allocate funds for the poor, but no matter the hardship, I will provide money for housing."

He reaffirmed that last year, the government completed 36,790 houses and plans to increase this number to 42,000 this year. Ahmad remarked, "The BJP says the government is bankrupt, but if we were bankrupt, would we be able to implement projects on this scale?" Highlighting the difference in governance, he noted that over one lakh houses were built during Siddaramaiah's previous term, contrasting it with the BJP's record of "not constructing even a single house."

Additionally, the State cabinet has increased the housing quota for minority communities from 10 per cent to 15 per cent, reinforcing the government's focus on social welfare. *—ANI*

Probe on after 2 elephants die

BELAGAVI, 3 NOV

After two elephants died of electrocution in Belagavi district, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has ordered an investigation. The incident occurred when the elephants brushed against an electrified fence around a farm land at Sulaigali village in Khanapur taluk.

Khandre directed the Chief Wildlife Warden to conduct a thorough investigation into the matter and submit a detailed report within five days, along with recommendations for disciplinary action if any lapses are found.

He said strict action would be taken if lapses were found on the part of forest or electricity department personnel.

According to reports, the elephants had been roaming in the area for several days, but forest officials allegedly failed to take precautionary measures to ensure their safety.

Karnataka Forestry Students and Graduates Association demand that the government makes BSC Forestry Degree the minimum qualification for the Assistant Conservator of Forests position and other posts at Freedom Park, in the City, on Monday **PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD**

Avadut Tudavekar, district president of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), said, "Like the police, the electricity department should also patrol regularly to check live wires and prevent mishaps."

Meanwhile, the Forest Department caught a 40-year-old tusker that trampled two people to death in Chikkamagaluru district after a 17-hour operation. *—Salar News*

CM orders that Mysuru safaris be reduced

MYSURU, 3 NOV

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced on Monday that he has instructed officials to reduce safari activities in the forested regions of Mysuru, following the tragic deaths of three farmers within two weeks in October.

Siddaramaiah highlighted that increased human activity in forest areas, coupled with the search for resources such as water and food, is pushing wild animals into nearby villages. "What has happened is that people's movement in the forest region has increased, and resorts are coming up," he remarked to reporters.

He elaborated, "Further, safari activities have increased – that's one reason. Then, they (wild animals) come for water and food to the villages."

The Chief Minister mentioned that he held a meeting with forest officials and plans to convene another soon. He has also directed action against illegal resorts. *—PTI*

State announces Rs 600cr fund for 'DeepTech Decade'

BENGALURU, 3 NOV

IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge on Monday announced the launch of the 'DeepTech Decade' initiative, under which the State government will introduce a 'DeepTech Elevate Policy' with a funding outlay of Rs 600 crore to boost startups in emerging technologies.

Announcing the 28th edition of the Bengaluru Tech Summit from 18 to 20 November at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), Kharge said the State will also host the Future Makers Conclave (FMC)—a first-of-its-kind event.

The FMC, to be held on 20 November, will bring together over 10,000 key players to showcase India's most AI and DeepTech startups.

The government is in discussions with venture capital firms to create a joint fund of up to Rs 1,000 crore dedicated to DeepTech and AI startups, he said. *—PTI*

SMASHED IT AGAINST FLOOR

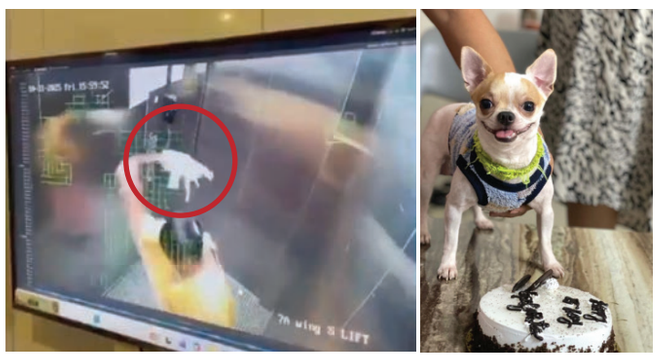
House help kills dog in apartment lift

BENGALURU, 3 NOV

A woman has been arrested for allegedly killing a pet dog by banging it against the floor of an apartment lift near Yelahanka the City, police said on Monday. The incident, which took place on 1 November, was captured on CCTV inside the lift.

The woman, Pushpalatha, is seen entering the lift with the pet dog. As the doors closed, the footage purports to show her bang the animal against the floor, killing it on the spot, police said.

According to the complaint filed by a 23-year-old woman, she had hired Pushpalatha to take care of her four-year-old dog, Goofy, on a monthly salary of Rs 23,000 from 11 September.



The accused lifted the dog, Goofy, into the air and smashed it before dragging the body out of the lift of a Yelahanka apartment **PHOTO: X**

- The complainant says she hired the accused, Pushpalatha, to take care of her four-month-old dog on a monthly salary of Rs 23,000

"On 1 November, my dog died. When I asked Pushpalatha how the dog had died, she said she did not know. Later, upon checking the CCTV footage, it was found that near the lift, she had lifted the dog and thrown it onto the ground, causing its death," the complainant alleged.

A case has been registered under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and Section 325 (mischief by killing or maiming an animal) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at Bagalur police station.

Pushpalatha was arrested on Sunday in connection with the incident, a senior police officer said. *—PTI*

DAVANGERE MAN ATTEMPTS SUICIDE AFTER POLICE 'TORTURE'

DAVANGERE, 3 NOV

Kiran, a 24-year-old man from Chikkabennur village in the Channagiri taluk, is fighting for his life after reportedly attempting suicide due to alleged police torture linked to a robbery case. Police reportedly detained numerous people, including Kiran, while investigating a robbery case. Kiran was allegedly held for three days and tortured before being released.

Family members claim he was pressured to confess to the crime.

Married just seven months ago, Kiran was admitted to a private hospital by family members who found him after he tried to hang himself.

The incident has incited public anger, with Kiran's mother confronting officers at the Santhebennur police station. Locals intervened to de-escalate the situation.

In response, District In-charge Minister SS Mallikarjuna has instructed the Superintendent of Police to investigate the matter, while the family demands accountability for the officers involved. Additional Superintendent of Police, Parameshwar Hegde, stated, "We summoned him for questioning." *—Salar News*

PHOTO: X

BJP MP Patnaik joins BJP, cites 'to serve the nation'

BHUBANESWAR, 3 NOV

Senior BJD leader and Rajya Sabha MP Amar Patnaik joined the BJP on Monday, days before the Nuapada by-election in Odisha. Patnaik, who headed the BJD's IT Cell and served as its spokesperson, made the switch as Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik began campaigning for the bypoll. A former accountant general, Amar Patnaik was welcomed into the BJP by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, state party president Manmohan Samal, and Odisha in-charge Vijay Pal Singh Tomar. Explaining his move, Patnaik said he wanted to "serve the nation" through the BJP. "I quit my government job in 2018 and became an MP in 2019. I have worked for Odisha's development, and now the time has come to dedicate myself to the nation," he said. *—PTI*

FIR filed over objectionable post featuring PM, Shah

BHADOHI, 3 NOV

An FIR has been filed against Akash Yadav for allegedly sharing an offensive social media post featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The post, which included an obscene song, went viral on 1 November, sparking public outrage. Inspector Ajit Kumar Srivastava confirmed that the complaint was lodged at Suriyawan police station by village watchman Jaipal Gautam. Yadav is charged under Section 196(1)(A) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for promoting enmity between groups and Section 67 of the Information Technology Act. Police are currently searching for Yadav, with further legal proceedings underway. *—PTI*

Sovan Chatterjee rejoins TMC after a hiatus of 7 years

KOLKATA, 3 NOV

Former Kolkata mayor Sovan Chatterjee has rejoined the Trinamool Congress (TMC) after a seven-year hiatus. Chatterjee, accompanied by partner Baisakhi Bandopadhyay, returned to the party days after being appointed chairman of the New Town Kolkata Development Authority. "This is a return to my roots. Didi (Mamata Banerjee) is like a family," he stated. Chatterjee had previously left the TMC in November 2018, citing personal reasons, and later joined the BJP, a tenure marked by internal conflicts. Their return is seen as TMC's effort to consolidate its ranks ahead of the Assembly elections, with Chatterjee expressing joy to work under Banerjee's leadership again. *—PTI*

YSRCP leader Jogi held in spurious liquor case

AMRAVATI, 3 NOV

Senior YSRCP leader Jogi Ramesh and his brother were arrested in connection with the alleged spurious liquor manufacture and sales in Andhra Pradesh. Ramesh and his younger brother Jogi Ramu were arrested by the Excise department officials on 2 November and were produced before a local court later. The arrests followed the seizure of well-organised spurious liquor manufacture, distribution and sale across multiple locations in the state. YSRCP supremo YS Jagan Mohan Reddy called the move "illegal and vindictive". Reddy alleged that Naidu was caught red-handed after his government's fake liquor factories were exposed. The liquor was being sold through private shops, belt shops and permit rooms that was being operated by the leaders of TDP and workers. *—PTI*

ECI begins massive voter cleanup drive

Exercise, covering nearly 9 states, 3 UTs, and around 51 cr electors, will conclude on 7 Feb, 2026

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

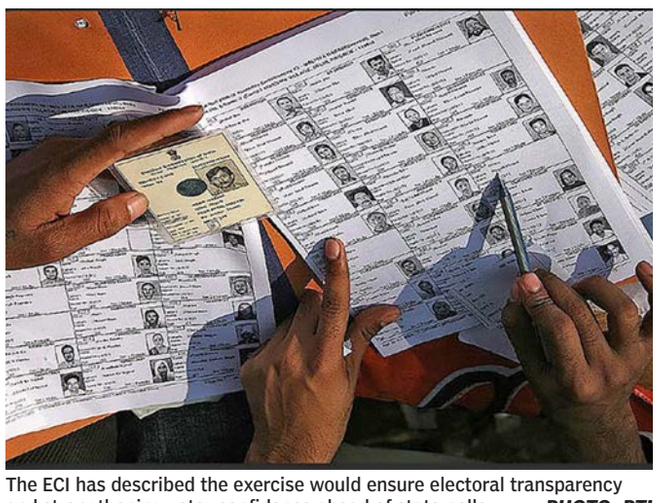
The Election Commission's (EC) Special Intensive Revision (SIR), a large-scale voter list cleanup exercise, will commence on Tuesday across nine states and three Union territories, covering nearly 51 crore electors.

The drive will conclude on 7 February, 2026 with the publication of final rolls.

This is the second phase of SIR after Bihar, where a revised electoral roll with 7.42 crore names was released on 30 September.

The new round will cover the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Among them, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry and West Bengal will face Assembly polls in 2026.



The ECI has described the exercise would ensure electoral transparency and strengthening voter confidence ahead of state polls **PHOTO: PTI**

Assam, also due for elections that year, will undergo a separate revision because a Supreme Court–supervised citizenship verification is underway. "There are special citizenship provisions for Assam; hence the June 24 order didn't apply," Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said, adding that separate orders will be issued for the state.

- The cleanup follows the Election Commission's successful Bihar pilot, which it called "the world's largest voter list purification drive

The enumeration phase will run from 4 November to 4 December, with draft rolls due on 9 December. The ongoing SIR is the ninth since Independence, the last held between 2002 and 2004.

The EC has described the exercise as a key step towards ensuring electoral transparency and strengthening voter confidence ahead of upcoming state polls.

The EC said the exercise aims to ensure "no eligible voter is left out and no ineligible one retained."

Officials will verify electors' details using Aadhaar and Bihar's updated rolls as reference.

Field officers have been told not to seek documents during enumeration; only those whose records mismatch the previous SIR data will need to submit proof when notified.

The cleanup follows the Election Commission's successful Bihar pilot, which it called "world's largest voter list purification drive."*—PTI*

DMK files plea in SC against SIR in TN

CHENNAI, 3 NOV

Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK on Monday filed a petition in the Supreme Court challenging the implementation of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state.

DMK Organisation Secretary and senior leader RS Bharathi filed the petition through party MP and senior advocate NR Elango, a party release said.

The ruling party moved the apex court a day after a meeting of several parties, chaired by Chief Minister MK Stalin. The meeting resolved to approach the apex court over the SIR issue. *—PTI*

Priyanka says PM must open 'Apmaan Mantralaya'

SAHARSA, 3 NOV

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday mocked PM Narendra Modi for repeatedly accusing opposition leaders of insulting the nation, suggesting he create a new 'Apmaan Mantralaya' (Ministry of Insults).

Addressing rallies in Saharsa and Lakhisarai, she accused the PM of diverting attention from unemployment, corruption and poverty. "Instead of talking about development, he keeps crying that everyone is insulting him," she said.

Her remarks came after Modi alleged that the Congress-RJD alliance had insulted 'Chhathi Maiyya' and opposed the Ram temple in Ayodhya. Vadra hit back, saying Modi should answer people's questions instead of 'cribbing and playing the victim.'

Criticising the Centre's Agnipath recruitment scheme, she said it was "neither in the nation's nor the youth's interest," and accused the NDA of "playing with the future of lakhs of young aspirants." Drawing a sharp parallel, she said, "First it was British rule, now it's Modi

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra with party leader Pappu Yadav during a rally in Saharsa, Bihar on Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

> **Whenever the PM goes to Gujarat, he talks about IT factories. But when he comes to Bihar, he talks about 'katta.' I have never heard any PM use such words.**
>
> -Tejashwi Yadav
> Rashtriya Janata Dal leader

Raj, if you ask a question, you are either beaten or silenced."

Vadra alleged that corruption and unemployment had worsened under the NDA, adding that Bihar's government was being run "not by Nitish Kumar but by the prime minister and his team in Delhi."

She promised that a Congress-led government would ensure transparent recruitment through an annual exam calendar and strict action for delays.

Claiming that 65 lakh names were deleted from Bihar's electoral rolls during the SIR, Priyanka called the exercise a conspiracy to weaken voters. *—PTI*

Vajpayee-era projects stalled by RJD, says PM

SAHARSA/KATIHAR, 3 NOV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday launched a joint offensive against the RJD-Congress alliance in Bihar, accusing it of corruption, misrule, and jeopardising the state's progress and security.

Addressing rallies in Saharsa and Katihar, Modi alleged the RJD stalled key projects sanctioned during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee era to avenge its 2005 ouster. "The NDA stands for development, while the jungle raj wallahs stand for destruction," he said, citing the Kosi Mahasetu project as an example. The NDA manifesto, he added, includes a flood-control blueprint and river-linking plans.

Modi accused the opposition of promoting illegal infiltration in Seemanchal, calling it a "dangerous conspiracy" to alter the demographic balance. "The Congress and RJD protect infiltrators, oppose the triple talaq law, and have surrendered before extremists," he said. He called

Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated with a foxnut (makhana) garland during a rally, in Saharsa **PHOTO: PTI**

> **We have three monkeys of the INDI Alliance. They are Pappu, who sees no good work by NDA, Tappu, who can't hear about it, and Akku, who won't admit to these while speaking.**
>
> -Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav the "protector of his father's sins," terming the party a dynastic outfit of corruption.

Praising women's achievements, Modi urged voters to safeguard welfare schemes like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, and highlighted the Rs 2,000-crore revival of Nalanda University.

In Sheohar, Amit Shah promised a defence corridor, industrial units in every district, a flood-free commission, a Sitamarhi–Ayodhya Vande Bharat train, and upgraded airports and medical colleges. "Only the Nitish Kumar–Narendra Modi pair can ensure a developed Bihar," Minister Shah said." *—PTI*

SC mulls publishing parties' rules online

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notices to the Election Commission of India (ECI), the Centre, and the Law Commission on a plea seeking mandatory publication of all political parties' constitutions, rules, and regulations on the home pages of their official websites for public access and scrutiny.

The plea, filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay in a pending PIL, urged the framing of clear rules to ensure transparency, secularism, and political justice in the registration and functioning of political parties.

It also sought ECI's compliance with Sections 29B and 29C of the Representation of the People Act and a corresponding report to the court, stressing the need for greater public accountability.

The Supreme Court had earlier sought Election Commission's response to Upadhyay's PIL aimed at curbing corruption, criminalisation, and communalism in politics.

Meanwhile, the court transferred to another bench the CPI(M)'s plea against a Madras High Court order directing the removal of all permanent political flagpoles from public spaces displayed across Tamil Nadu. *—Agencies*

B'DESH MAY SCRAP ADANI DEAL IF GRAFT PROVEN

DHAKA, 3 NOV

Bangladesh's interim government has said that it will not hesitate to cancel an existing power contract with India's Adani group if any irregularities or corruption are proven.

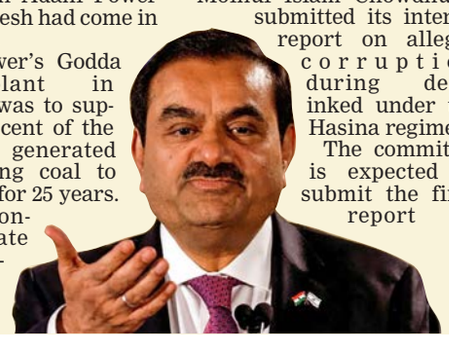
The 2017 power supply deal between Adani Power and Bangladesh had come in for scrutiny.

Adani Power's Godda power plant in Jharkhand was to supply 100 per cent of the electricity generated from burning coal to Bangladesh for 25 years.

"The contracts state that no corruption has occurred, but if proven otherwise, cancellation is possible," Energy Affairs Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan said while reacting to an interim report submitted by a National Review Committee.

The committee, headed by retired High Court judge Moinul Islam Chowdhury, submitted its interim report on alleged corruption during deals inked under the Hasina regime.

The committee is expected to submit the final report in January. It found "massive governance failure" and "massive corruption" in the energy sector, while there were gross irregularities, particularly in signing the quick rental deals. In June, Bangladesh paid USD 437 million to Adani Power, significantly reducing its outstanding dues. *—PTI*



- The committee, headed by retired High Court judge Moinul Islam Chowdhury, submitted its interim report on alleged corruption during deals inked under the Hasina regime

Himachal woman accuses BJP MLA of harassment

SHIMLA, 3 NOV

A woman in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district has accused BJP MLA Hansraj of harassment and threatening her family, charges the three-time legislator called an attempt to incite communal tension.

A video of the woman alleging threats and pressure to withdraw her earlier complaint against Hansraj surfaced on social media. She had filed an FIR last year, accusing the Churah MLA of sending obscene messages and demanding nude pictures.

In the latest clip, the woman alleged police inaction and claimed she had lost faith in the authorities. "If any harm comes to my family, I will not spare the MLA," she said, also accusing Hansraj's wife of threatening retaliation once he became a minister.

Hansraj denied the allegations, calling the woman 'like my daughter,' and said police had already filed a closure report. Terming the renewed charges a "sinister attempt to provoke communal violence" and "tarnish his image", he said he would pursue a defamation case. *—PTI*

TRADITION RESTORED

Omar hailed as 'Darbar Move' revived after four years

JAMMU, 3 NOV

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah received a rousing reception on Monday as the 'Darbar Move' resumed after four years, marking the return of government offices to the winter capital and fulfilling a key poll promise.

Accompanied by Deputy CM Surinder Choudhary and Minister Javed Rana, Abdullah walked over a kilometre from his residence to the Civil Secretariat through Raghunath Market, greeted by crowds, flower showers and drumbeats. Traders distributed sweets, celebrating the revival of the century-old practice suspended in 2021 by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who had cited e-office efficiency and Rs 200-crore annual savings.

Calling the move a symbol of regional unity, Abdullah said, "Some things are more important than money — they involve emotions and the unity of Jammu and Kashmir."

The 150-year-old Darbar Move, started by Dogra rulers, shifts government offices seasonally between Srinagar and Jammu. The Civil Secretariat, closed in Srinagar on 30–31 October, reopened in Jammu for six months. JCCI President Arun Gupta hailed it as a "historic day," while NC chief Farooq Abdullah said, "Those who tried to divide J&K failed today." *—PTI*

J&K CM Omar Abdullah receives flowers as he arrives on the resumption of the biannual 'Darbar Move,' in Jammu, Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

Fugitive Choksi contests extradition in Belgium SC

Fugitive diamantaire Mehul Choksi has appealed before Belgium's Supreme Court against an Antwerp Court of Appeals order declaring India's extradition request "enforceable," officials said Monday.

Public prosecutor Ken Witpas confirmed Choksi filed the appeal in the Court of Cassation on October 30, suspending his extradition pending the verdict. The appeal, he said, is "strictly limited to legal merits."

The Antwerp court had on 17 October upheld a lower court's ruling validating arrest warrants issued by a Mumbai special court in 2018 and 2021 in the Rs 13,000-crore Punjab National Bank scam.

The court finding cited "no risk" of unfair trial or ill-treatment in India.

Mehul Choksi, accused of siphoning Rs 6,400 crores, fled to Antigua in 2018 and was later traced to Belgium.

Maharashtra: 70% co-op bank jobs for locals

MUMBAI, 3 NOV

The Maharashtra government has mandated that 70 per cent of jobs in District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) be reserved for candidates domiciled in the respective districts to boost local employment. The remaining 30 per cent will be open to candidates from other districts, though unfilled posts may also go to locals.

A government resolution issued on October 31 also directed that all future DCCB recruitments be conducted only through the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS), TCS-iON, or Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Ltd (MKCL) to ensure transparency.

The move follows complaints against agencies earlier empanelled by the Commissioner and Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Pune, for conducting online recruitment. The state has scrapped the existing panel of seven such agencies. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Forest dept orders 'man-eater' leopard's killing

PUNE, 3 NOV

A day after villagers torched a forest department vehicle over the death of a 13-year-old in a leopard attack, authorities ordered the capture and possible elimination of the animal. A five-member sharpshooter team has been deployed in Junnar, Ambegaon and Shirur, areas prone to such attacks. Locals staged a 'rasta roko' on the Pune–Nashik Highway, demanding action after three recent deaths in Shirur. Assistant Conservator of Forests Smita Rajhans said DNA samples from tranquilised leopards will be matched with those from victims, and any identified attacker will be shot as per the principal conservator's order. The Junnar forest division has six to seven leopards per 100sqkm, drawn to human settlements. *—PTI*

Fake accounts opened in ex-WB minister's name

KOLKATA, 3 NOV

Kolkata Police have launched a probe after a fake social media profile was created in the name of former West Bengal minister and ex-chief secretary Manish Gupta, officials said on Monday. Cyber fraudsters allegedly opened a Facebook account using Gupta's name and photo and used the same image on a WhatsApp number to message his acquaintances, seeking money for an 'urgent purpose.' Some reportedly transferred funds, believing the messages were genuine. After discovering the fraud, Gupta alerted his contacts and lodged a complaint with the cyber police. Police suspect the culprits to be part of an interstate racket creating fake profiles of public figures to cheat people. *—PTI*

Gold theft: TDB to vet Sabarimala priests

T'PURAM, 3 NOV

The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), the temple management body, on Monday said it would intensify the scrutiny and surveillance in the appointment of 'keezhsahnthies', the assistant priests in Sabarimala. TDB president PS Prasanth said in future, priests would be appointed only after a thorough background check and would remain under strict surveillance of the vigilance wing of the temple body. Prasanth clarified its stand in the controversy over the alleged disappearance of gold from the Sabarimala temple and the role of Unnikrishnan Potty, the prime accused, who began his association with the temple as an assistant priest before becoming a sponsor of temple works. An SIT is investigating the irregularities. *—PTI*

Worker exposed to toxic gas in R'than plant dies

KOTA, 3 NOV

A labourer died days after inhaling hydrogen sulphide gas at the Heavy Water Plant of Rawatbhatta Atomic Power Station (RAPS) in Rajasthan, officials said on Monday. Dharmendra Lohar and four other contract workers fell unconscious during maintenance work on 25 October. While the others recovered, Lohar, on ventilator support, died late Sunday at a Kota hospital, police said. Lohar had worked at the plant for nearly two decades. His sister, Seema Lohar, alleged negligence by the plant management and sought financial aid for the family. A postmortem was being conducted at Kota's MBS Hospital, and the Rawatbhatta police have launched an investigation into the gas leak incident. *—PTI*

Bus half buried in gravel: Survivor on T'gana horror

Road's narrowness caused the accident, says Chevella MLA

HYDERABAD, 3 NOV

Fire department personnel at the site of the accident that occurred after a tipper lorry carrying gravel collided head-on with a public transport bus in Rangareddy in Telangana on Monday *PHOTO: PTI*

Most passengers seated behind the bus driver were killed, while those behind the conductor survived the deadly accident in Telangana that claimed 19 lives, one of the survivors said on Monday.

The accident occurred when a tipper lorry carrying gravel collided head-on with a public transport bus near Chevella in Ranga Reddy district of Telangana on Monday.

According to the conductor of the ill-fated Telangana State Road Transport Corporation bus, there were 72 passengers in the vehicle at the time of the accident

Recalling the horrific incident, the survivor said he was dozing in the bus when a loud thud jolted him awake, leaving him half-buried in gravel.

"Many people were buried under the gravel. The lorry came from the opposite direction..," he said.

He opened a window and escaped, with six others . Later, another person broke the window panes to free more passengers.

A doctor at the government hospital in Chevella said the accident victims suffered fractures, facial, ab-dominal and leg injuries.

I have lost three daughters. I don't know how I will survive this," said Yellaiah Goud of Tandur, father of three victims.

The injured persons were undergoing treatment in major state-run hospitals in Hyderabad. Half the bus was filled with gravel, trapping passengers inside.

The authorities deployed heavy earth-moving equipment to clear the wreckage of the ill-fated bus.

A police official also sustained minor injuries during a rescue operation after an excavator ran over his leg.

Meanwhile, Telangana MLA Kale Yadaiah on Monday attributed the accident near Chevella to the narrow-ness of the road.

The road widening was sanctioned, but works could not be taken up as some people had approached the National Green Tribunal raising some concerns. *—PTI*

R'than to give victims' kin Rs 10 L aid

The Rajasthan government on Monday announced financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh each for the families of the 15 people who died in the road accident in Jodhpur's Matoda area. They will also receive Rs 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. If three or more people in a family died, then a maximum of Rs 25 lakh compensation will be provided. The injured will receive Rs 2 lakh from the government and Rs 1 lakh from the district administration. *—PTI*

People look at the wrecked remains of a vehicle after a speeding dumper truck rammed into several vehicles in Jaipur *PHOTO: PTI*

13 killed in R'than road accident

JAIPUR, 3 NOV

A road bustling with daily commuters in Jaipur's Harmada area turned into a scene of devastation Monday afternoon when a rashly driven dumper truck ploughed into at least 17 vehicles, leaving 13 people dead and 10 injured.

Bodies were strewn across the road, mangled cars lined the highway, and several motorbikes were crushed under the dumper's wheels following the horrific chain collision that occurred near Loha Mandi when the truck, whose driver was intoxicated, ploughed into these vehicles on a 300 metre stretch before crashing into a trailer.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, his deputies Diya Kumari and Premchand Bairwa and former chief minister Ashok Gehlot expressed grief over the loss of lives.

"We saw people pulling out one body after another from the wrecked cars. Some were trapped inside, others were lying on the road," said Mahesh Sharma, a local shopkeeper.

The dumper came from Road No. 14 towards the Loha Mandi petrol pump at high speed.

The injured are being treated at SMS Hospital's trauma centre, and several are in critical condition.

Locals managed to nab the driver and handed him over to the police.

Among the victims were members of a family from Agra who were returning from Khatushyamji after offering prayers.

Rakesh, relative of deceased Mahendra said, "Mahendra had come to the bus stand with his two nieces when the incident took place." *—PTI*

Delhi riots: No offence made out under UAPA, says Shifa-ur-Rehman

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

Activist Shifa-ur-Rehman, seeking bail in a Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) case linked to February 2020 riots in Delhi, told the Supreme Court on Monday that he was "cherry-picked" and no offence was made out against him under the anti-terror law.

Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, Gulfisha Fatima, Meeran Haider and Rehman were booked for allegedly being the "masterminds" of the February 2020 riots, which left 53 people dead and over 700 injured.

The violence erupted during the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Rehman's counsel argued that on behalf of the head of the alumni association of Jamia Millia Islamia, no witness has anywhere said that he was involved in violence.

Rehman was earlier granted interim bail in November, 2023 and November, 2024, and has no other case against him.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Umar Khaild, submitted that out of 116 cases tried and concluded in connection with the Delhi riots, 97 cases have ended in acquittals, and the court pointed to the fabrication of evidence in 17 others. *—PTI*

SC to hear on timeline for Waqf properties registration

The Supreme Court agreed to relist AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi's plea seeking more time to register all Waqf properties, including 'Waqf by user,' on the UMEED portal. Lawyer Nizam Pasha said that the six-month registration period was nearing its end. The court said it

SC junks plea to compensate victims of mob lynching

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind seeking compensation for mob-lynching victims in Uttar Pradesh. It upheld the Allahabad HC order directing the petitioner to approach the state government. The plea alleged failure to implement SC's guidelines on the issue. *—PTI*

Chief secretaries sorry for not filing compliance affidavit

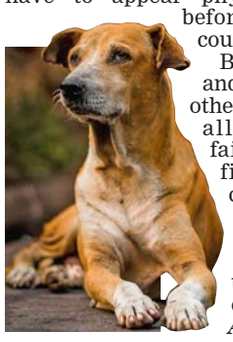
NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

The Chief Secretaries of States and Union Territories appeared before the Supreme Court and tendered an 'unconditional apology' for not filing a compliance affidavit on the menace of stray dog bites.

Taking into record the appearance of the Chief Secretaries, the court said it will pass appropriate directions on 7 November.

During the course of a brief hearing, the top court impleaded the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) as a respondent in the case.

The court had said that there was no respect for the order of the court, as it made it clear that the chief secretaries will have to appear physically before the court.



Bihar and many other states allegedly failed to file the compliance affidavit in the case. *—Agencie*

The India Gate is Delhi is completely invisibe as a heavy layer of smog surrounds it *PHOTO: PTI*

Haze shrouds Delhi, air quality 'very poor'

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

A grey haze blanketed Delhi on Monday as the city's air quality remained in the 'very poor' category.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) of 316, indicating persistent pollution levels.

As many as 28 monitoring stations recorded 'very poor' air quality with readings above 300, the CPCB's Sameer app showed.

Delhi's minimum temperature settled at 17.9 degrees Celsius, 1.9 notches above the sea-son's average, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Meanwhile, the recent cloud seeding trials in New Delhi were purely an experiment, Min-istry of Earth Sciences Secretary M Ravichandran has said, stressing that such tests are es-sential to assess their feasibility before making them operational.

Such experiments can end in success or failure, he said.

Ravichandran was at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune to attend the 11th WMO Scientific Conference on Weather Modification.The Delhi government in collaboration with IIT Kanpur, conducted cloud seeding trials in parts of Delhi to ease the city's air pollution crisis. *—PTI*

Woman pushed out of moving train

T'PURAM, 3 NOV

A 20-year-old woman passenger who was pushed out of a moving train by a drunk man near Varkala here was attacked after she refused to move from the doorway, the FIR in the case has stated.

The accused, Suresh Kumar, 50, of Panachamoodu, allegedly attacked Sreekutty of Palode after she refused to move from the doorway of the Kerala Express on Saturday night. Her friend Archana, 19, who was travelling with her, said Kumar also tried to push her out before passengers intervened and pulled her to safety.

- Suresh Kumar of Panachamoodu, allegedly attacked Sreekutty of Palode after she refused to move from the doorway of the Kerala Express.

Sreekutty sustained severe head and abdominal injuries and is in the ICU at Thiruvananthapuram Medical College Hospital. Doctors said her condition remains serious but stable. Police confirmed Kumar was intoxicated and have charged him with attempted murder.

The accused, who was intercepted by RPF personnel at Kochuveli, will be produced in court later. *—PTI*

KERALA TAXI DRIVERS BOOKED FOR HARASSING TOURIST

IDUKKI, 3 NOV

A case has been registered against a group of taxi drivers after a Mumbai-based tourist alleged that she was harassed by them during her recent visit to Munnar here.

The tourist, identified as Janvi, an assistant professor, posted a t video on her social media account detailing how she was allegedly harassed by local taxi drivers when she tried to travel by an online cab.

PHOTO: PEXELS

On 30 October, her host informed her that online taxis such as Uber and Ola were not allowed there because of opposition from local taxi unions.

She then contacted her Uber driver to meet her at another location. A few men then threatened the cab driver, saying he could not take her.

When Janvi contacted the police and later the Kerala Tourism, she was told she couldn't travel by Uber or Ola.

The two policemen, who intervened to resolve the issue between taxi drivers and the tourist, were suspended.

A case was registered against unidentified persons for allegedly stalking a German musician at Varkala. *—PTI*

Mammootty, Hamza bag Kerala State Film Awards

THRISSUR, 3 NOV

Mammootty and Shamla Hamza were on Monday named 'Best Actor' and 'Best Actress' as Kerala government announced the 55th State Film Awards for 2024.

Chidambaram's 'Manjummel Boys', one of the highest-grossing Malayalam films, swept major honours, including 'best film'.

The seven-member jury was chaired by actor Prakash Raj.

Mammootty won for his portrayal of Kodumon Potty in 'Bramayugam', while Shamla Hamza, a relatively new face, won for her powerful performance in 'Feminichi Fathima'. Chidambaram also won the awards for 'best director' and 'best screenplay' (original) for 'Manjummel Boys'.

'Premalu', featuring Naslen and Mamitha Baiju, was named 'best popular film'. It was directed by Girish AD. *—PTI*

Mammootty, Shamla Hamza *PHOTO: PTI*

DELHI HC TO THE RESCUE

'Law student lacking attendance can take exam'

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

The Delhi High Court on Monday ruled that no law student in the country should be detained from sitting in examinations due to lack of minimum attendance.

The high court, which passed a slew of directions in relation to mandatory attendance requirement in law colleges, asked the Bar Council of India (BCI) to modify the mandatory attendance norms.

Due to shortage of attendance, student's promotion to next semester class cannot be withheld, it said.

The court passed the order while disposing of a suo motu petition, initiated by the SC, in relation to the death of law third year law student Sushant Rohilla by suicide in 2016 after allegedly being barred from sitting for the semester exams due to lack of requisite attendance.

PHOTO: ANI

While pronouncing the judgment, the high court said, the BCI should undertake a stakeholder consultation, including student bodies, parents and teachers for this purpose to safeguard the life and mental health of students keeping in mind the impact on students at detention or non-appearance in exams due to mandatory attendance requirements can have. No law college, university or institution should be permitted to mandate norms of attendance, norms which are over and above the minimum percentage prescribed by the BCI. *—PTI*

DELHI CHOKES, BUT WHO CARES?

As Delhi reels under smog with AQI levels crossing 400, social media erupted over marathon and cycling events going ahead despite the "severe" air quality. Indian Air Force held a marathon to celebrate at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium to celebrate 'fitness'. According to the official handle, 12,000 runners including children participated. Delhi also hosted a a cyclothon in Dwarka called 'Fit India Sunday on Cycle'. A viral post questioned the city's priorities after actors Archana Puran Singh, Huma Qureshi, Shefali Shah and Sunil Grover flagged off the Marathon. Users called the run 'hazardous' and 'suicidal'

PHOTO: ANI

Destiny's child Shafali Verma thrives in God's plan

If Shafali Verma decides to sport a tattoo that reads "God's Plan", no one can possibly disagree that it is an apt messaging.

Destiny's child Shafali Verma found her way back into the Indian women's ODI side in unfortunate circumstances but left an indelible mark on the team's victorious World Cup campaign, thriving in "God's Plan"which can work in mysterious ways.

On a rainy August afternoon in Mumbai, former chairperson of selectors Neetu David had assured the media that Shafali will get her chance to play for India after she confirmed the exclusion of the 21-year-old from India's World Cup squad, despite having played five of those events across formats.

Shafali had blown hot and cold in the opportunities that she got but more importantly, her absence from the ODI side was met with Pratika Rawal's impressive rise, and the selectors had kept the decision on the former for another day.

But as it panned out, an unfortunate injury to in-form opener Pratika sent India back to ensuring Shafali, who was busy representing Haryana in the Senior Women's T20 Tournament in Surat, joined the Indian squad ahead of their World Cup semifinal against Australia as soon as she could.

Shafali had no spare time to waste as she clocked in two separate one-hour batting sessions here at the DY Patil Stadium and it's University Ground ahead of the semifinal.

"What happened with Pratika, as a sportsperson, it wasn't a good thing. No one wants any sportsperson to sustain such an injury. But God has sent me here to do something good," Shafali told the media prior to the semi-final.

While her promising comeback lasted only five balls including two fours for 10 runs against Australia, it was in the final where Shafali played a knock akin to a seasoned player with several years of experience behind her.

Shafali Verma celebrates during the ICC Women's World Cup final ODI cricket match between India Women and South Africa Women at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai

PHOTO: PTI

Shafali's 87, in which she played some spectacular shots as well as farmed the strike, set the platform even though India managed an under-par 298/7 in their bid to set a big target.

But interestingly, a few very outside the playing group knew Shafali, who had rolled over her arms only five times in 30 ODIs before Sunday's final, was also going to chip in as the sixth bowler.

"When Shafali joined the team, we were missing the overs from Pratika. So, when Shafali came in, we saw that she was bowling a lot of overs in domestic cricket. Sir and I spoke to her about it, and she said, 'I'm ready for (even) 10 overs. That shows how confident she was to bowl," skipper Harmanpreet shared with the media later.

"When that partnership started (between Laura Wolvaardt and Sune Luus, who added 52 runs for the fourth wicket) in the middle, suddenly I got the thought that I should give Shafali a try to see what happens."

"It was a gut feeling. I didn't want to go back to the (dressing) room later thinking, "Why didn't I try?" because they were looking good and when I gave her that over and she got back-to-back breakthroughs, that was the turning point for us," Harmanpreet said.

Head coach Amol Muzumdar said he was following Shafali's progress in the Senior Women's T20 Trophy, which helped India to settle the debate of a sixth bowler.

"When she walked in into the team, we knew that she's bowling in domestic cricket. I did ask her and I followed her in domestic cricket that she was bowling all four overs in a T20 game. All four overs (and) every game she bowled," Muzumdar told media later.

"We knew that a sixth bowler will end up bowling only 4-5 overs so if Shefali is doing the job, she's either the 6th or the 7th bowling option.

But the decision to introduce her today was entirely Harman's," he added.

Only time would tell if Shafali would retain her place in the side or make way for whenever Pratika, who has an impressive opening record with Smriti Mandhana, returns but for now the 21-year-old is back in the business.

—PTI

LETTERS

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SALAR سالار

What's on ballot in 1st poll since Trump became Prez?

One year after Donald Trump retook the White House and set into motion a dramatic expansion of executive power, the Republican president figures prominently in state and local elections being held on Tuesday.

The results of those contests — the first general election of Trump's second term — will be heralded by the victors as either a major repudiation or resounding stamp of approval of his second-term agenda. That's especially true in high-profile races for Virginia and New Jersey governor, New York City mayor and a California proposition to redraw its congressional district boundaries.

More than half of the states will hold contests on Tuesday. Here's a look at some of the major statewide and local races on the ballot:

Governors: New Jersey and Virginia

In New Jersey, Democrat Mikie Sherrill and Republican Jack Ciattarelli are the nominees to succeed term-limited Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy. Sherrill is a four-term US representative and former Navy helicopter pilot. Ciattarelli is a former state Assemblyman backed by Trump. In 2021, Ciattarelli came within about 3 percentage points of toppling Murphy.

In Virginia, Republican Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears and Democratic former US Rep. Abigail Spanberger look to replace term-limited Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin. While Spanberger has made some efforts to focus on topics other than Trump in stump speeches, the president remained a major topic of conversation throughout the campaign, from comments Earle-Sears made about him in 2022 to some of his more polarizing policies, such as the so-called One Big Beautiful Bill tax and spending cut measure and the widespread dismissal of federal workers, many of whom live in northern Virginia.

Trump was scheduled to participate in telephone rallies for the candidates on Monday night.

As the only gubernatorial races held in the year following a presidential election, the contests have long served as the first major test of voter sentiment toward the party holding the White House. In every race for governor since 1973, one or both states have elected a governor from a party different from that of the sitting president.

New York City Mayor

The race to lead the nation's largest city features Democratic state legislator Zohran Mamdani, independent candidate and former Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Republican Curtis Sliwa.

Mamdani's comfortable victory over Cuomo in the June primary generated excitement from the party's more progressive wing and apprehension among the party establishment. Party leaders like Gov Kathy Hochul and US House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries eventually endorsed the self-described democratic socialist months after he won the nomination.

The winner will replace outgoing Mayor Eric Adams, who initially sought renomination as a Democrat.

After losing the primary, Adams opted to run as an independent, but dropped out of the race in September and eventually endorsed Cuomo. In February, the Trump Justice Department asked a court to drop corruption charges against Adams because the case impeded Trump's "immigration objectives". Trump later said he'd like to see both Adams and Sliwa drop out of the race in an effort to defeat Mamdani.

California Proposition 50

California voters will decide on a statewide ballot measure that would enact a new congressional map that could flip as many as five Republican-held US House seats to Democratic control. Proposition 50, championed by Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, is in response to a new Texas map that state Republicans enacted in August as part of Trump's efforts to keep the US House under Republican control in the 2026 midterms. The Texas plan, which could help Republicans flip five Democratic-held US House seats, has sparked an escalating gerrymandering arms race among states to pass new maps outside of the regular once-a-decade schedule.

Pennsylvania Supreme Court

Control of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court will be at stake when voters cast Yes or No votes on whether to retain three justices from the high court's 5-2 Democratic majority.

Partisan control of the court could have major implications for the 2028 presidential race, since justices might be asked to rule on election disputes, as they did in 2020. Spending on Tuesday's contests is on track to exceed USD 15 million as Republicans have campaigned to end the majority and Democrats have responded. *—PTI*

One year after Donald Trump retook the White House and set into motion a dramatic expansion of executive power, the Republican president figures prominently in state and local polls being held on Tuesday ***PHOTO: PTI***

A Jain monk & his peaceful protest for the right to feed pigeons

Jain monk Nileshchandra Vijay began a protest at Mumbai's Azad Maidan on Monday, opposing the civic body's decision to shut down the Dadar Kabutarkhana, a site where the community members have traditionally fed pigeons.

Speaking to reporters before starting his protest at the site near the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) headquarters in south Mumbai, the monk said he intended to stage an indefinite fast to demand restoration of the Kabutarkhana.

He was reacting to the BMC's recent move to allow controlled feeding of pigeons at four locations- Worli Reservoir, the mangrove area on Lokhandwala Back Road in Andheri West, the Airoli-Mulund check post area, and Gorai ground in Borivali West.

According to BMC, feeding will be permitted only between 7am and 9am, and non-governmental organisations will be responsible for managing these sites.

The civic body has clarified that this is a temporary arrangement until the expert committee's report and court orders are received, and that closed Kabutarkhanas will not be reopened for now.

"I have stopped drinking water from the moment I reached at Azad Maidan. My protest is within the framework of the Constitution written by Babasaheb Ambedkar, who has given right to each individual to protest in democratic way," Nileshchandra Vijay told reporters.

"I do not approve of the decision of granting four alternate sites for Kabutarkhana. I want reopening of Dadar kabutarkhana. The alternate sites given by BMC are as far as 4, 5 and even 9km away. Will a pigeon fly so far? The administration should have given a site within 2km of the existing Kabutarkhana," the Jain monk said.

Asserting he would sit in protest forsaking food and water for a month, he also spoke on the now-scrapped sale of a Jain trust property to a builder in Pune and alleged attack on cow vigilantes in various parts of Maharashra.

"Do not give us any lollypop but allow me to continue my protest here. I believe Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde can take action and find a solution. I appeal to the members of the Jain community across the country to come to Mumbai and support the cause to reopen Dadar Kabutarkhana," he said.

If (Maratha quota activist) Manoj Jarange can protest at the Azad Maidan for his community's interest, then why can't he sit there for the welfare of all the animals, the monk questioned.

"If I am asked to leave this place, I will sit (in protest) at Dadar Kabutarkhana. The permission given for feeding the pigeons states that the birds can be fed two hours each in the morning and evening at the alternate sites. I demand that similar permission be given for the Dadar Kabutarkhana," Vijay said.

He also said the community was willing to raise funds to purchase land if the civic body allotted an appropriate site.

If the BMC gives a site, the Jain community is ready to purchase it by raising funds, he added.

"The Kabutarkhana in Dadar area has existed for more than a century and holds religious significance for the community. These Kabutarkhanas are more than a hundred years old. It is the house of pigeons, and it is our responsibility to protect their home," he said.

"Wherever the Jain community has its residences and buildings, pigeons are being fed. But more than one lakh pigeons have died since the closure of the Kabutarkhana. Community organisations have currently been treating 50 to 60 injured or sick pigeons daily," he claimed.

He asserted the protest would remain peaceful.

The issue of feeding pigeons and reported health risks associated with their presence in congested urban areas first came up on 3 July during the Monsoon session of Maharashtra Legislature with Shiv Sena leader Maneesha Kayande raising concerns of residents near Dadar Kabutarkhana.

In an oral response, Maharashtra industries minister Uday Samant said there are 51 'Kabutarkhanas' in the city, adding the BMC will be asked to start an awareness drive against such structures within a month and shutting them.

Samant had said there is a need to create awareness about the hazards of feeding piegons. The BMC then removed some encroachments at Dadar Kabutarkhana and later covered it to stop pigeon feeding, which led to protests from animal lovers and a section of the Jain community.

In August, some members of the Jain community tore down the tarpaulin covers installed by the BMC at Dadar Kabutarkhana.

At the time, Jain monks had held a prayer meeting for the pigeons that reportedly died following the closure of the Kabutarkhana, urging the government to reopen the enclosures. *—PTI*

Jain monk Nilesh Chandra Vijay along with supporters during a hunger strike against the pigeon feeding ban, in Mumbai on Monday; BMC had removed some encroachments at Dadar Kabutarkhana and covered it to stop pigeon feeding, which led to protests from animal lovers and a section of the Jain community

PHOTO: PTI

UK train stabber charged with attempted murder

LONDON, 3 NOV

British police on Monday charged a 32-year-old man with attempted murder in connection with the stabbings that injured 11 people on board a London-bound train over the weekend. Anthony Williams, a black British national, appeared before a court in eastern England on Monday. British Transport Police said Williams is charged with 10 counts of attempted murder, one count of actual bodily harm and one count of possession of a bladed article in connection with the "major incident" at Huntingdon railway station on Saturday evening. Of the 11 people injured, a rail staffer who tried to stop the attack remains in a life-threatening but stable condition. Williams is also charged with another count of attempted murder and possession of a bladed article for a prior incident. *—PTI*

Louvre heist done by petty criminals: Prosecutors

PARIS, 3 NOV

A jewellery heist at the Louvre museum last month, which netted thieves jewels worth €88 million (£76 million; $102 million), involved "petty criminals" rather than organised crime, Paris prosecutor Laure Beccuau revealed. "This is not quite everyday delinquency... but it is a type of delinquency that we do not generally associate with the upper echelons of organised crime," she told Franceinfo radio. Four suspects, all from Seine-Saint-Denis, were arrested; two males have previous theft convictions. They allegedly carried out the theft using a stolen mechanical lift and escaped on scooters. One suspect remains at large. Beccuau remains hopeful that the missing jewels, including a crown dropped during the escape, can still be recovered. *—Agencies*

Iran to build 8 new nuke plants with Russian help

TEHRAN, 3 NOV

Iran will construct eight nuclear power plants with assistance from Russia, according to the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), Mohammad Eslami. The arrangements involve four plants in Bushehr and four others along the northern and southern coastlines, with specifics to be disclosed later. President Masoud Pezeshkian reiterated Iran's commitment to a "peaceful nuclear program" and asserted, "Not to develop weapons." He emphasised that building a bomb is "a tiny, disproportionate, and inhumane part" of the sector. The new facilities aim to increase nuclear-generated electricity to 20,000 megawatts. *—ANI*

PHOTO: X

Mexico mourns as Mayor killed on Day of the Dead

URUAPAN, 3 NOV

The mayor of Uruapan, Michoacan, Carlos Alberto Manzo Rodriguez, was shot dead during a public gathering for Day of the Dead festivities. The assailant opened fire in the town's historic centre, striking Manzo Rodriguez seven times before being killed on the scene. The local prosecutor stated that a council member and the mayor's bodyguard were injured in the attack, linked to ongoing clashes between rival criminal groups in the region. Following the tragedy, hundreds of residents held a funeral procession, demanding "Justice! Justice! Out with Morena!" He had previously sought assistance from state officials to combat cartel violence, amid concerns over corruption within local law enforcement. *—PTI*

At least 20 killed as 6.3 earthquake jolts Afghan, 500 hurt

KABUL, 3 NOV

A powerful, 6.3 magnitude earthquake shook northern Afghanistan before dawn Monday, killing at least 20 people and injuring more than 500 others, a health official said, adding that the numbers could increase.

The US Geological Survey said the quake's epicentre was located 22km west-southwest of the town of Khulm, and that it struck at 12.59 am at a depth of 28km.

Sharafat Zaman, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Public Health, said 534 injured people and 20 bodies had been brought to hospitals in Balkh and Samangan provinces.

Locals search the rubble of a destroyed house in Khulm District, Samangan Province; Injured residents taken for treatment at a hospital in Mazar-e-Sharif; Local officials confer next to a truck that caught fire from power cables in Khulm District, on Monday PHOTO: PTI

BLUE MOSQUE
WAS DAMAGED.

800 HOUSES
WERE COMPLETELY DESTROYED IN 1 VILLAGE.

In the nearby province of Badakhshan, the quake partially or completely destroyed 800 houses in one village, said Ihsanullah Kamgar, spokesperson for the provincial police headquarters. But with a lack of internet in the remote area, there were still no accurate casualty figures, he added.

Yousaf Hammad, a spokesman for Afghanistan's disaster management agency, said most of the injured suffered minor wounds.

The earthquake was also felt in Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province, where footage on social media showed minor damage to the historic Blue Mosque. The centuries-old site is one of Afghanistan's most revered religious landmarks and a major gathering place during Islamic and cultural festivals.

This comes after a magnitude 6.0 earthquake hit eastern Afghanistan on 31 Aug and killed more than 2,200 people. *—PTI*

Xi knows consequences if he invades Taiwan: Trump

Back on '60-minutes', says US 'got everything' from China

WASHINGTON, 3 NOV

In a tense interview with CBS' '60 Minutes', US President Donald Trump said that his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping knows the "consequences" of invading Taiwan. Trump appeared on the show having said he would never return. He had even sued Paramount over its interview of former vice president Kamala Harris.

TAIWAN

Trump said Taiwan did not come up in his talks with Xi in South Korea, but he knew that Beijing wouldn't launch an invasion. "He (Xi) has openly said, and his people have openly said at meetings, 'We would never do anything while President Trump is president,' because they know the consequences."

RARE EARTH MINERALS

Trump said China can no longer leverage its control of rare earth elements to influence trade. He said the US "got sort of everything that we wanted" from the trade deal with Xi. "The power they have is because of the fact that they've been accumulating (rare earth minerals).... Now we are. We have tremendous rare earth."

SHUTDOWN

Trump said Democrats can't "extort" him to reopen the government, even as the shutdown enters its sixth week.

NYC ELECTION

Trump threatened to cut funding to New York City if Democrat mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani wins. New York votes on 4 November, and Mamdani is racing ahead of Independent Andrew Cuomo, who Trump endorsed, in the polls.

"I'm a much better looking person (than Mamdani)," Trump said. *—Agencies*

US President Donald Trump during CBS' '60 Minute' show PHOTO: X

'SOME SECTORS IN US ARE IN A RECESSION'

Some sectors of the US economy are in recession while others may fall into one, said Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent. In an interview with CNN, he blamed it on the policies during the Covid lockdown and inflation caused by Federal Reserve's policies. However, a report Global Trade suggests that freight demand was "at levels not seen since the depths of the pandemic", as it said that the country was in the middle of "goods recession".

No Tomahwaks for Ukraine, says Trump

In another change of stance, Trump has said that the he is "not really" considering supplying long-range Tomahwak missiles to Ukraine. Speaking to press on his Airforce One, he said that he might change his mind, but he isn't considering them now because he doesn't want to escalate the war.

Welcome US help to fight Islamist terrorists: Nigeria

Nigeria has said it would welcome assistance from the US in combating Islamist insurgents in the country, provided that its territorial integrity is respected. Nigerian President advisor Daniel Bwala said the country doesn't interpret Trump's remarks on military action literally.

Nobel Peace winner backs strikes on Venezuela

Nobel Peace Prize winner María Corina Machado said she backs Trump's strikes on alleged drug carrying boats, saying "Finally, this is happening". The Venezuelan Opposition leader said "This is about saving lives" and the "deaths are the responsibility of (President) Nicolás Maduro."

TENACIOUS TRUCE

Hamas has released the remains of 20 hostages, with eight now remaining in Gaza PHOTO: X

Hamas returned bodies of 3 soldiers, not hostages: Israel

JERUSALEM, 3 NOV

- The Israeli military said the three were killed in the 7 October attack and that their bodies were dragged by Hamas back to Gaza. Hamas has not responded yet

Israel on Monday handed over the bodies of 45 Palestinians, health officials in Gaza said, a day after Hamas returned the remains of three hostages. Israeli officials identified the three as soldiers who were killed in the Hamas-led attack on 7 October, 2023, that triggered the war.

The military said the bodies handed over were those of soldiers killed in the attack. Their bodies were dragged by Hamas back to Gaza. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office identified the three as Capt Omer Neutra, an American-Israeli, Staff Sgt Oz Daniel and Col Assaf Hamami. A Hamas statement earlier said their remains were found on Sunday in a tunnel in southern Gaza.

Hamami was the first person in the military to declare that Israel was at war, less than 10 minutes after the attack began, Israeli media reported.

US President Donald Trump said on Sunday he had spoken with Neutra's family. "They were thrilled, in one sense, but in another sense, obviously, it's not too great," Trump said.

Since the ceasefire took effect on 10 October, Palestinian militants have released the remains of 20 hostages, with eight now remaining in Gaza.

Meanwhile, a political scandal has rocked Israel after the military's former legal chief, Maj Gen Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi admitted to leaking a video of Israeli soldiers raping a Palestinian detainee. *—PTI*

IN A BLOW TO KARKI, NEPAL'S SC STAYS PM'S ORDER TO RECALL envoys

KATHMANDU, 3 NOV

- The government had said it was not happy with the performance of the envoy – all of whom were appointed by interim PM Karki's predecessor, KP Sharma Oli.

The Nepal Supreme Court has ordered a stay on Prime Minister Sushila Karki's recall of nearly a dozen ambassadors.

Karki, a former chief justice who was appointed as the country's first woman leader in September after deadly anti-corruption Gen Z protests, recalled 11 ambassadors to countries including China, the US, the UK and Japan. The government said it was not happy with the performance of the envoy – all of whom were appointed by Karki's predecessor KP Sharma Oli.

Citing a lawyer, Reuters reported that the government could not justify its charges against the envoys.

The ruling is seen as a setback for Karki, who is under pressure to weed out corruption. *—Agencies*

B'desh envoy bats for direct flights to Pak

KARACHI, 3 NOV

A top Bangladeshi diplomat has said that his country's ties with Pakistan have improved since the ousting of Sheikh Hasina. Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan Iqbal Hussain Khan emphasised the need to establish direct sea links and flights between Karachi and Chittagong to boost trade between the two nations, flagging the airspace ban on Pakistani flights that India opposed following the Pahalgam terror attack.

Speaking at an event in the port city on Sunday, he said that ties between the two sides had not been good for the last 10-12 years.

"Relations have improved at every level and now Bangladeshi citizens are issued visas for Pakistan in 24 hours," Khan said. He said that due to the Indian airspace ban, it is difficult for passengers from Bangladesh to get direct flights to Pakistan.

Protesters had stormed Bangladesh's Parliament in October over the July National Charter PHOTO: X

JULY CHARTER

Bangladesh's interim government on Monday asked all political parties to reach a consensus within a week on the referendum on the July Charter, saying it would take a unilateral decision if they failed to reach an agreement.

A National Consensus Commission headed by Yunus drafted the July Charter, incorporating over 80 reform proposals following consultations with several political parties, including former prime minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its once ally Jamaat-e-Islami.

The political parties signed the document at a ceremony on 17 October, but differences surfaced over its implementation process.

"We urge all political parties to reach a consensus in their own volition in the shortest possible time, if possible within one week," Law Adviser Asif Nazrul said after an emergency meeting. *—PTI*

STRANGE THINGS...

Millie accuses David Harbour of harassment

LOS ANGELES, 3 NOV

'Stranger Things' actor David Harbour has been accused of harassment and bullying by co-star Millie Bobby Brown. The allegations emerged just weeks before the release of Stranger Things Season 5 on Netflix.

Brown, 21, reportedly filed a formal complaint before filming began, alleging repeated instances of harassment on set, reported the Radar Online and the Daily Mail. The Mail cited a source saying there were pages and pages of accusations and that the internal investigation went on for months. Harbour, 50, is understood to have faced an internal inquiry.

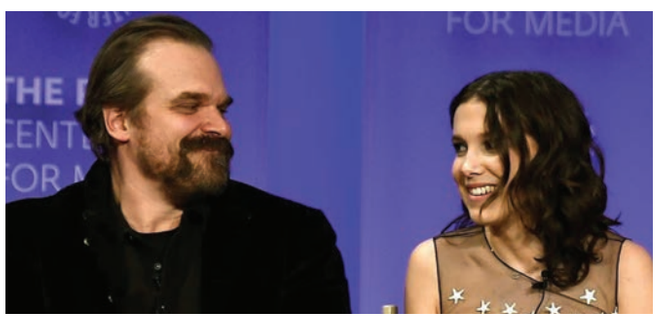
The controversy has reignited public discussion after Harbour's past comments about Brown resurfaced online. In a 2021 appearance on That Scene with Dan Patrick podcast, Harbour described having a "special relationship" with Brown, recalling how he'd known her since she was 12, when 'Stranger Things' began filming in 2016.

"Millie and I have always had sort of a special relationship," Harbour said. "I have a real protective feeling for her, a deep fatherly affection."

Harbour plays police chief Jim Hopper, who acts as Eleven's adoptive father in the Netflix series. Reports clarify that Brown's allegations do not involve any claims of sexual misconduct.

The accusations come as Harbour's ex-wife Lily Allen released a new album titled 'West End Girl' which accuses him of infidelity and betrayal.

'Stranger Things' Season 5 releases in two parts, with Part 1 premiering on 26 November and Part 2 on 25 December. *—Agencies*



Actors David Harbour and Millie Bobby Brown PHOTO: X

- Brown filed a complaint before filming began for Stranger Things Season 5, alleging repeated instances of harassment on set. However, she has not accused him sexual misconduct

Famine spreads in Sudan, including siezed el-Fasher

CAIRO/NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

Famine has spread to two regions of war-torn Sudan, including a major city in Darfur where paramilitary fighters have been rampaging the past week, a global hunger monitoring group said Monday, marking the latest crisis in a war that has created the world's largest humanitarian disaster.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) said famine has been detected in the Darfur city of el-Fasher and the city of Kadugli. Twenty other areas in Darfur and Kordofan, where fighting intensified in recent months, are also at risk of famine, according to the IPC report.

El-Fasher had been under siege by the Rapid Support Forces for 18 months. Last week, RSF fighters seized the city, unleashing a wave of killings and attacks.

The IPC said famine – or IPC Phase 5 -- has been announced in el-Fasher and Kadugli, which it said experienced "a total collapse of livelihoods, starvation, extremely high levels of malnutrition, and death." The IPC is considered the leading international authority on hunger crises.

About 375,000 people have been pushed into famine in Darfur and Kordofan as of September, the report said. Another 6.3 million people across the country are in IPC Phase 4, meaning they face extreme levels of hunger.

INDIAN ABDUCTED

Sudan's Ambassador to India Mohammed Abdalla Ali Eltom said his country is coordinating closely with authorities to secure the release of an Indian abducted by RSF in El-Fasher. *—PTI*

OpenAI & Amazon sign $38B deal for AI computing power

SEATTLE, 3 NOV

OpenAI and Amazon have signed a USD 38 billion deal that enables the ChatGPT maker to run its artificial intelligence systems on Amazon's cloud computing services. OpenAI will get access to "hundreds of thousands" of Nvidia's specialised AI chips through Amazon Web Services as part of the deal announced Monday. The agreement comes less than a week after OpenAI altered its partnership with its longtime backer Microsoft, which is no longer the startup's exclusive cloud provider. California and Delaware regulators also last week allowed OpenAI, which was founded as a nonprofit, to move forward on its plan to form a new business structure to more easily raise capital and make a profit. "The rapid advancement of AI technology has created unprecedented demand for computing power," Amazon said. It said OpenAI "will immediately start utiliSing AWS compute as part of this partnership. —*PTI*

Rupee slips 5 paise to 88.75 against US dollar

MUMBAI, 3 NOV

The rupee weakened for the third straight session on Monday, settling five paise lower at 88.75 against the US dollar, close to its all-time low, pressured by a strong greenback and foreign fund outflows. The currency opened at 88.73 and touched an intraday low of 88.80. Analysts attributed the decline to a firm US dollar, rising crude prices and importer demand, though gains in domestic equities offered support. The dollar index rose 0.13 per cent to 99.75, while Brent crude hovered at USD 64.76 per barrel. Foreign institutional investors sold equities worth Rs 6,769.34 crore on Friday. India's manufacturing PMI rose to 59.2 in October. Forex reserves fell USD 6.9 billion to USD 695.35 billion for the week ended 24 October. —*PTI*

Gold falls by ₹300 as firm dollar curbs safe-haven demand

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

Gold prices fell by Rs 300 to Rs 1,25,300 per 10 grams in Delhi on Monday, pressured by a stronger US dollar and easing global uncertainties that curbed safe-haven demand. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity slipped to Rs 1,24,700 per 10 grams, while 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 1,25,600 on Friday, the All India Sarafa Association said. Silver, however, gained Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,54,000 per kg. Internationally, spot gold dropped 0.14 per cent to USD 3,996.77 per ounce, while silver edged down to USD 48.64. Analysts attributed the decline to reduced expectations of further US rate cuts and easing concerns after a US-China trade deal. China's removal of a key tax incentive on gold sales also weighed in. —*PTI*

PhonePe launches 'Protect' feature to curb frauds

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

PhonePe has rolled out 'PhonePe Protect', a new security feature designed to shield users from fraudulent transactions. The tool flags risky payments in real time and explains why certain transactions are declined for security reasons. The feature identifies and blocks payments to mobile numbers flagged as suspicious under the Department of Telecommunications' Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI). PhonePe is already declining transactions linked to 'Very High FRI' numbers and issuing alerts for 'Medium FRI' cases. Anuj Bhansali, Head of Trust and Safety, said the feature embeds security into every transaction. PhonePe had over 61 crore registered users as of 31 March, 2025 —*PTI*

Sensex snaps 2-day falling streak, climbs 40 points

Nifty too trades flat amid fund outflows, up by just 41.25pts

MUMBAI, 3 NOV

Benchmark indices Sensex edged up nearly 40 points while Nifty ended above 25,750 points in a lackadaisical trade on Monday, snapping the two-day declining streak on buying in select auto and banking shares.

The 30-share BSE Sensex inched up by 39.78 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 83,978.49 as 14 of its constituents advanced and 16 declined. During the day, it hit a high of 84,127 and a low of 83,609.54.

The 50-share NSE Nifty eked out a marginal gain of 41.25 points or 0.16 per cent to end at 25,763.35. Profit taking at higher levels due to the absence of fresh domestic trigger and foreign fund outflows kept the market rangebound, analysts said. Among Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra was the biggest gainer, gaining 1.7 per cent after the October sales data. Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV) rose by 1.69 per cent. Eternal, State Bank of India, Bharti Airtel and Kotak Mahindra Bank were also among the major gainers. However, Maruti Suzuki dropped the most by 3.37 per cent. ITC, Tata Consultancy Services, Larsen & Toubro, Bharat Electronics and Titan were the major laggards.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 6,769.34 crore on Friday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth Rs 7,068.44 crore, according to exchange data. Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.14 per cent to USD 64.71 a barrel. On Friday, the Sensex tanked 465.75 points or 0.55 per cent to settle at 83,938.71. The Nifty fell by 155.75 points or 0.60 per cent to 25,722.10. —*PTI*

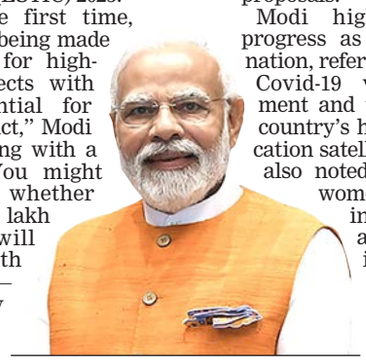
'HIGH RISK, HIGH POTENTIAL'

PM launches ₹1 lakh cr fund to boost pvt research

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched a Rs 1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund to boost private-sector investment in high-risk, high-impact research projects under the government's 'Viksit Bharat 2047' vision. The announcement came at the inaugural Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2025.

"For the first time, capital is being made available for high-risk projects with the potential for high impact," Modi said, adding with a laugh, "You might wonder whether this Rs 1 lakh crore will stay with Modi — that's why you're not clapping! This amount is for you."



The Department of Science and Technology will act as the nodal ministry. A Special Purpose Fund within the Anusandhan National Research Foundation will manage the corpus, which will be channelled to second-level fund managers such as AIFs, DFIs and NBFCs, rather than directly to industry or start-ups. Investment committees of experts will independently vet proposals.

Modi highlighted India's progress as a technology-led nation, referencing indigenous Covid-19 vaccine development and the launch of the country's heaviest communication satellite on Sunday. He also noted a sharp rise in women's participation in science, with annual patent filings by women increasing from under 100 a decade ago to more than 5,000 today. —*PTI*

RESULTS BEAT EXPECTATIONS

Titan Q2 profit up 59% to ₹1,120 cr

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

Titan reported a 59 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,120 crore for Q2 FY26, up from Rs 704 crore a year earlier. Revenue increased 22.17 per cent to Rs 16,461 crore, while total income rose 28.5 per cent to Rs 18,837 crore. Expenses grew 26.3 per cent to Rs 17,316 crore.

Its jewellery division surged 29.3 per cent to Rs 16,522 crore, driven by an 18 per cent rise in its domestic business — Tanishq, Mia and Zoya — to Rs 12,460 crore. CaratLane posted 32 per cent domestic growth to Rs 1,072 crore, aided by strong festive demand and coin promotions. International jewellery revenue nearly doubled to Rs 561 crore.

The company added 34 jewellery stores in India and opened a Tanishq store in Virginia, US. Watches and wearables revenue rose 13.26 per cent to Rs 1,477 crore, supported by premiumisation and strong same-store sales. Eyecare revenue grew 8.9 per cent to Rs 220 crore. Emerging businesses, including fragrances, women's bags and Taneira, delivered 34 per cent growth in total income to Rs 142 crore, with combined losses narrowing. Titan shares closed 0.46 per cent lower at Rs 3,727.80 on the BSE.

AIRTEL

Airtel's net profit more than doubled to Rs 8,651 crore in Q2 FY26, helped by growth in high-value smartphone and post-paid users. Revenue rose 26 per cent to Rs 52,145 crore. ARPU climbed to Rs 256, ahead of Jio's Rs 211.4. India revenue, including Indus Towers, grew 22.6 per cent to Rs 38,690 crore. The total customer base reached 62.35 crore, with strong smartphone additions and rising data consumption. Capex stood at Rs 11,362 crore, while net debt fell 5 per cent YoY to Rs 1,94,713 crore. Shares closed at Rs 2,073.75, up 0.93 per cent.

AMBUJA CEMENTS

Ambuja Cements' profit jumped over four-fold to Rs 2,302 crore in Q2 FY26, aided by a Rs 1,697 crore tax provision reversal. Revenue rose 25 per cent to Rs 9,129.73 crore. Cement revenue grew 20.15 per cent to Rs 8,753.62 crore, while ready-mix concrete revenue surged 56.5 per cent to Rs 462 crore. Shares closed 2.14 per cent higher at Rs 577.35 on the BSE.. —*PTI*

Groww's ₹6,600 cr IPO to open today

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

The much-anticipated Rs 6,600 crore Groww IPO opens for subscription on Tuesday and closes on Friday, 7 November. Recognised as India's fastest-growing investment platform, Groww serves customers directly with a wide array of financial products. By 30 June, 2025, the platform had 12.6 million active users on the NSE, accounting for a 26.3 per cent market share among retail investors.

The IPO price band has been set at Rs 95 to Rs 100 per equity share, with a lot size of 150 shares. Groww aims to raise Rs 1,060 crore through new shares while existing shareholders will offload 55.72 crore shares. Prominent investors involved in the offer include Peak XV Partners and Tiger Global. —*Agencies*

Pine Labs to raise ₹3,900 cr via IPO

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

Fintech major Pine Labs has set a price band of Rs 210–221 per share for its Rs 3,900 crore initial public offering (IPO), which opens on 7 November and closes on 11 November. Anchor bidding will take place on 6 November. The issue is expected to value the company at over Rs 25,300 crore.

The IPO comprises a fresh issue of Rs 2,080 crore and an Offer for Sale (OFS) of more than 8.23 crore shares worth Rs 1,819.9 crore at the upper end. Shareholders participating in the OFS include Peak XV Partners, Actis, PayPal, Mastercard Asia/Pacific, Temasek (via Macritchie Investments), Invesco, Madison India Capital, MW XO Digital Finance Fund Holdco, Lone Cascade LP, Sofina Ventures SA and Pine Labs co-founder Lokvir Kapoor. Proceeds from the fresh issue will be used for debt repayment. Pine Labs operates payment and issuing platforms across India, Malaysia, the UAE, and the US. —*PTI*

Lenskart readies AI smart glasses as IPO gets subscribed 2 times

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

Lenskart is preparing to launch its first AI-powered smart glasses by the end of December, marking a major step in its transition into a technology-led lifestyle brand, according to people familiar with the development. Internally referred to as "B by Lenskart Smartglasses", the device is expected to offer AI-driven interactions, health and wellness insights, and UPI payment functionality.

Built on Google's Gemini 2.5, the launch is likely to follow the company's stock market debut on 10 November. Pricing is yet to be finalised.

The glasses are expected to be powered by Qualcomm's Snapdragon AR1 Gen 1 platform, designed for lightweight AR devices with on-device AI. This follows the strategic partnership between Lenskart and Qualcomm announced during Snapdragon for India XR Day in July 2025. Lenskart did not respond to queries.

The company's Rs 7,278 crore initial public offering (IPO), launched on 31 October at a valuation of nearly Rs 70,000 crore, has continued to gain strong traction. On the second day of the share sale, the IPO was subscribed 2.01 times, receiving bids for 20.09 crore shares against 9.97 crore shares on offer, NSE data showed. The retail portion was subscribed 3.33 times, the non-institutional segment 1.88 times, and the QIB category 1.64 times. The IPO closes on Tuesday.

The price band has been set at Rs 382–402 per share. The public offer includes a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 2,150 crore and an Offer for Sale of 12.75 crore shares by promoters and investors. Lenskart allocated 8.13 crore shares to anchor investors at Rs 402 apiece, raising Rs 3,268 crore.

Proceeds will be used to expand company-owned stores, invest in technology and cloud infrastructure, strengthen branding, pursue acquisitions, and meet general corporate needs. Lenskart is scheduled to list on 10 November. —*PTI*

Manufacturing growth picks up in October: PMI

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

India's manufacturing sector showed notable improvement in October, driven by relief from Goods and Services Tax (GST), productivity advancements, and technology investments, according to a monthly survey. The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose from 57.7 in September to 59.2 in October, indicating a more robust sector performance.

In PMI terms, a score above 50 signifies expansion, while below indicates contraction. "India's manufacturing PMI accelerated to 59.2 in October, up from 57.7 in the prior month. Robust end-demand fuelled expansions in output, new orders, and job creation," stated Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC. The growth in sales was primarily driven by the domestic market, while new export orders increased at a slower rate. Firms expanded their purchasing of raw materials and semi-finished items to enhance production and build inventories as inflation softened.—*PTI*

India sees 999 deals worth $44.3B in Q3, says PwC

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

India experienced a robust quarter for deals, recording 999 transactions valued at USD 44.3 billion in the July-September period of 2025, according to PwC India's latest "Deals at a Glance" report released on Monday.

This marks a 13 per cent increase in volume and a substantial 64 per cent rise over the preceding quarter—where there were 887 deals worth USD 27 billion.

"Mergers and acquisitions (M&A) continued to drive market activity, accounting for 518 transactions valued at USD 28.4 billion, marking an 80 per cent increase in value and a 26 per cent rise in volume quarter-on-quarter," the report noted. Year-on-year, deal volumes grew by 64 per cent, with total M&A value expanding by 32 per cent, supported by active domestic consolidation.

Private Equity (PE) activity also remained strong, with 481 deals valued at USD 15.9 billion, representing a 41 per cent surge in disclosed value.

"Q3 CY25 witnessed a decisive pickup in both deal activity and valuations," said Mohit Chopra, Partner and Leader - Deals, PwC India.

He added that the increased IPO activity, with 159 new listings, underscores the investor confidence in India's growth trajectory. —*PTI*

Musk accuses Sam of stealing a non-profit, Altman hits back

WASHINGTON, 3 NOV

Elon Musk and Sam Altman are embroiled in a public feud on X regarding the direction of OpenAI, the AI research organisation they co-founded in 2015. Tensions flared last week when Altman shared a 2018 email confirming a $45,000 payment for a Tesla Roadster, followed by a request for a refund that allegedly bounced back.

Musk on 1 November, said, "You stole a non-profit," and added, "you forgot to mention act 4, where this issue was fixed and you received a refund within 24 hours." Altman countered, stating, "I helped turn the thing you left for dead into what should be the largest non-profit ever," and noted that Musk had initially proposed a Tesla takeover of OpenAI. "You said we had a 0 per cent of success. Now you have a great AI company and so do we. Can't we all just move on?" he concluded.

Musk has criticised OpenAI's shift from non-profit model to a for-profit structure. —*Agencies*

AMID US TARIFFS

OPEC+ halts oil making hike amid UAE summit

ABU DHABI, 3 NOV

Abu Dhabi opened its annual oil summit on Monday with energy officials expressing confidence that rising global power demand, driven by artificial intelligence and aviation, will support higher prices, even as OPEC+ paused production increases planned for the first quarter of 2026.

Sultan al-Jaber, head of ADNOC and former COP28 president, said the energy sector required "reinforcement, not replacement". US Interior Secretary Doug Burgum echoed the sentiment, attacking what he called "climate extremism" and insisting: "There is no energy transition, only energy addition."

OPEC+ PAUSE

On Sunday, OPEC+ agreed to raise output by 1,37,000 barrels a day from December but halted further hikes in January–March due to "seasonality". Brent crude traded around USD 65 a barrel on Monday, down sharply from its USD 115 peak in 2022.

Analysts said the pause reflected caution amid sanctions on Russian producers.

US POLITICS AND RUSSIA SANCTIONS IN FOCUS

Burgum, representing the Trump administration's National Energy Dominance Council, praised Gulf–US energy ties and linked energy security to the global AI race. Meanwhile, fresh US and UK sanctions targeted Russian firms, including Rosneft and Lukoil, whose branding appeared at the conference.

CLIMATE SIDELINED

The summit took place less than a year after the UAE hosted COP28, where nearly 200 nations agreed to "transition away" from fossil fuels. Yet the UAE continues expanding output capacity towards 5 million barrels a day.

Qatar's energy minister also warned the EU that LNG supplies could be affected by its sustainability directives. —*PTI*

Diamond, solar panel gifts for Women's WC winners

SURAT, 3 NOV

Surat-based industrialist and Rajya Sabha member Govind Dholakia has announced a reward of diamond jewellery and solar panels for the Indian women's cricket team, which won the World Cup by defeating South Africa. Dholakia is the founder and chairman emeritus of Shree Ramkrishna Exports Pvt Ltd.He wrote a letter to the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) honorary vice president Shukla before the final match on Sunday, expressing his desire to present each member of the champion Indian team with "handcrafted natural diamond jewellery" as a "token of appreciation for their brilliance and resilience."- Known for his philanthropic work.—*PTI*

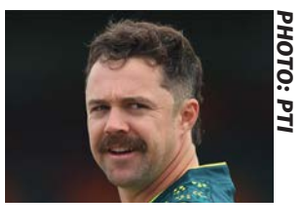


PHOTO: PTI

Head released from Australia's T20I squad

HOBART, 3 NOV

Opening batter Travis Head was on Monday released from Australia's T20 International squad for the remaining two matches against India to play in the Sheffield Shield ahead as part of preparations for the Ashes. The 31-year-old left-hander will play alongside Alex Carey for South Australia against Tasmania here from November 10 as he switches to red-ball cricket ahead of the first Ashes Test starting November 21 in Perth. The selectors left the decision on whether to play in the Shield or the final two T20Is against India to Head himself, but he opted to feature in the domestic competition, according to a report in cricket.com.au. The five-match T20I series between India and Australia is tied 1-1 after three matches. The last two matches will be played at Carrara (6 November) and Brisbane (8 November). —*PTI*

AIFF confirms IWL 2025-26 to be held in two phases

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

The Indian Women's League (IWL) will be played in two phases following requests from participating clubs, the All India Football Federation (AIFF)announced on Monday. The decision was taken after a meeting with all eight clubs on October 30, the federation said in a statement. The first phase of the league will run from 20 December, 2025, to 6 January, 2026, while the second phase will be held from 20 April to 10 May. The AIFF said the schedule was revised "with a considerable number of players engaged in their respective clubs' international assignments and national team commitments."East Bengal is the reigning IWL champion.—*PTI*

PHOTO: X/@NBA

NBA Round-up: Suns hand Spurs first loss

NEW YORK, 3 NOV

Devin Booker collected 28 points and 13 assists, Grayson Allen had 17 points and five 3-pointers, and the host Phoenix Suns dealt the San Antonio Spurs their first loss of the season in a decisive 130-118 victory on Sunday night. The Suns built a 31-point lead in the third quarter while throttling Spurs center Victor, who finished with nine points, nine rebounds, four blocked shots, and six turnovers. He was 4 of 14 from the field. Ryan Dunn had 17 points, Collin Gillespie had 15 points, and Royce O'Neale and Jordan Goodwin had 11 points apiece for the Suns.—*PTI*

BCCI announces ₹51 cr for Women's World Cup winners

The team will also get ₹40 cr as prize money from ICC

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

The BCCI will reward the Indian women's cricket team with Rs 51 crore for winning the ODI World Cup, secretary Devajit Saikia announced on Monday. The team will also get Rs 40 cr as prize money from ICC. The Indian women's team under Harmanpreet Kaur's leadership beat South Africa by 52 runs in the final on Sunday to win its first-ever global trophy. "As a token of appreciation, the BCCI will reward the Indian women's cricket team with a cash award of Rs 51 crore for winning the World Cup. It includes all the players, support staff, and the national selection committee," Saikia told PTI on Monday.

India s players celebrate with the trophy during the presentation ceremony after winning the ICC Women's World Cup 2025, in Navi Mumbai, early Monday *PHOTO: PTI*

Prime Minister will meet India's World Cup-winning team

India's ODI Women's World Cup-winning team will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Wednesday, 5 November.

Formal invitation has been sent to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) by the Prime Minister's Office on Monday, and the players, who are currently in Mumbai, will head to the national capital by Tuesday evening and disperse to their respective homes, after meeting the Indian Prime Minister.

This is a watershed moment for Indian cricket: Muzumdar

When Amol Muzumdar took charge of the Indian women's cricket team in 2023, his focus on fitness and fielding became a mantra played on loop. His tenure followed a phase of the women's team journey marred by frequent coaching changes, player displeasure, and questionable selection calls that were often unanswered. After multiple coaching stints in domestic and franchise setups and consulting gigs with a few international teams, Muzumdar took on the responsibility of making a promising bunch of women world champions. —*PTI*

> **To talk about change, we needed to win one big tournament**
> -Harmanpreet Kaur, Indian women captain

> **Renuka used to play cricket with boys during childhood**
> -Sunita, Mother of Renuka

CHESS WORLD CUP

S L Narayanan *PHOTO: X/@CHESSFIDE*

India's Narayanan, Diptayan advance to second round

PANJIM, 3 NOV

Indian Grandmaster SL Narayanan and GM Diptayan Ghosh won both their rapid games to clinch their spots in the second round of the FIDE World Cup 2025, while Aronyak Ghosh joined them with a clinical performance in the second stage of Round 1 tiebreak here on Monday.

Playing the Sicilian defense in the first game as black, Narayanan, known for his skills in the faster version of the game, crashed through white's defenses with a finely chalked plan and followed it up with a remarkable victory in just 22 moves, with white to stamp his authority in what was anyway presumed to be an uneven clash.

Diptayan Ghosh proved superior to Peng Xionglian of China as he won both his games in the first set of the tiebreaker to move ahead.

The Indian from Kolkata was in prime form in the first game of the tiebreaker as he won with white and then capitalised on an erroneous display by his opponent to romp home, and is now assured of a USD 7000 paycheck.Things were smooth for Narayanan in the first game as he repeated his pet opening and did not meet with a proper response.

The middle game was level, and the Peruvian did not have a clue once the complexities of strategy arrived.The first game ended without much punch, but in the second, Narayanan proved his mettle with a crushing attack from the word go.Not many would have fancied Diptayan Ghosh coming here for the tournament. —*PTI*

Kerala strengthen semis bid with win over Delhi

BAMBOLIM, 3 NOV

- Kerala Blasters FC produced a dominant display to thrash Sporting Club Delhi 3-0 in their second Super Cup Group D fixture and strengthen their semifinals prospects here on Monday

Kerala Blasters FC produced a dominant display to thrash Sporting Club Delhi 3-0 in their second Super Cup Group D fixture and strengthen their semifinals prospects here on Monday.

All the goals came in the first half. A brace from Koldo Obieta (17', 23') and Korou Singh Thingujam's acrobatic strike (34') sealed a comfortable victory for the Blasters, who now sit top of the group with six points from two matches.

The result also confirmed SC Delhi's elimination from the tournament, while Kerala Blasters strengthened their bid for a semi-final berth.

For the Blasters, it was another statement performance as they were disciplined at the back, creative in midfield, and ruthless up front.

David Català's men were in complete control from the first whistle. They moved the ball fluidly, pressed high, and stretched SC Delhi's five-man backline.

Within minutes, Adrian Luna's corner found Juan Rodriguez, whose header rattled the woodwork, setting the tone for a relentless half. Noah Sadaoui looked lively in attack, while Nihal Sudheesh's pace kept the capital side pinned deep.

Kerala Blasters' breakthrough came in the 17th minute, and it was self-inflicted from SC Delhi's perspective.

Ayush Adhikari played a loose back pass, which Koldo Obieta intercepted with ease. The Spanish striker made no mistake, rifling home a right-footed strike past Vishal Yadav, who got a hand to it but couldn't keep it out.

Barely five minutes later, Obieta doubled his tally and Kerala Blasters' lead. A neat passing sequence saw Korou find Nihal, who slipped the ball into Obieta's path. The forward skipped past the SC Delhi defenders and calmly slotted the ball into the bottom corner to make it 2-0.

By now, the Blasters were running riot. The third goal came in the 34th minute, and it was the pick of the bunch. —*PTI*

AN ODE TO PLAYERS

A park in Jayamahal Extension, Bengaluru, gets a new wall painting with the portraits of Indian women's cricket team and other sports personalities, on Monday *PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*

Ranji Trophy: Karnataka pacers wreck Kerala on Day 3

T'PURAM, 3 NOV

Pacers Vidwath Kaverappa and V.Vyshak boosted Karnataka's chances of securing its first win of the season by forcing Kerala to follow-on on the penultimate day of the Ranji Trophy Elite Group B match at the KCA stadium, Mangalapuram here on Monday.

The sustained hostility of both the pacers, coupled with rank bad shots by Kerala batters, saw the host tumble to 238 all out in the first innings. Following on, Kerala's makeshift opening pair of Krishna Prasad (two batting) and M.D. Nidheesh (four batting) survived another testing spell from the pacers to score 10 for no loss at stumps.

Karnataka pacer Vidwath Kaverappa *PHOTO: PTI*

Kaverappa (four for 42) dealt the early blow by cleaning up overnight batter Akshay Chandran (11) with an inswinger and then struck N.P. Basil received a glancing blow on the head from a bouncer, forcing him to retire. But B. Aparajith and Sachin Baby resisted and added 86 runs for the fifth wicket. Aparajith pulled Kaverappa for two sixes over square leg and drove him through covers to reach his fifty before lunch. However, Sachin Baby (31) fell at the stroke of lunch, guiding Kaverappa to Shreyas Gopal at the point.

Aparajith dominated the spinners as the pacers were rested. Ahammed Imran played second fiddle in the sixth wicket association with Aparajith, which yielded 68 runs. —*PTI*

AYG MEDAL WINNERS: IOA TO GIVE CASH REWARDS

NEW DELHI, 3 NOV

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Monday announced that the gold, silver, and bronze medal winners at the recent Youth Asian Games in Bahrain will be given cash rewards of Rs 5 lakh, Rs 3 lakh, and Rs 2 lakh, respectively, in recognition of their achievements.

The fourth-place finishers will also receive Rs 50,000 each, while both the gold-winning men's and women's kabaddi teams will get Rs 10 lakh each.

Coaches of medal-winning athletes will also get Rs 1 lakh each.

India had finished sixth in the final standings in the October 23-31 Games with 48 medals (13 gold, 18 silver, 17 bronze). Boxing contributed four golds, while beach wrestling and kabaddi yielded three and two yellow metals, respectively.

The IOA said the achievement of the athletes reflects the growing strength and depth of the country's youth sporting ecosystem.

"The IOA recognizes that such performances are the result of sustained effort, rigorous training, and invaluable guidance provided by coaches and support staff. In acknowledgment of these commendable accomplishments, the IOA has decided to felicitate all medal winners, coaches, and athletes who secured fourth positions at a special ceremony to be held shortly," the apex body said in a release. IOA chief P T Usha said her organization takes immense pride in the exemplary performance of the young athletes at the third Asian Youth Games. —*PTI*

World's oldest Olympic champ dies at 101

PARIS, 3 NOV

The world's oldest former Olympic champion, ex-track cyclist Charles Coste, has died aged 101, French sports minister Marina Ferrari announced on Sunday night.

Coste won gold at the 1948 London Olympics and was a torchbearer at the 2024 Paris Games.

"It was with great sorrow that I learned of the death of Charles Coste, Olympic champion in London," Ferrari said. "At 101 years old, he leaves a huge sporting heritage."

Coste passed away on Thursday. He had been a promising cyclist until the start of World War II, but resumed his passion after the war. He won a French national title in 1947 and took Olympic gold in London the following year in the team pursuit, helping France beat the British team in the semifinal and Italy in the title race.

Since the death in January of Hungarian gymnast Agnes Keleti, Coste, born 8 February 1924, was the oldest living Olympic champion. —*PTI*

International cricket returns to Faisalabad

FAISALABAD, 3 NOV

International cricket returns to Faisalabad for the first time in 17 years on Tuesday when newly installed ODI captain Shaheen Shah Afridi leads Pakistan in the three-match series against an under-strength South Africa. "It is exciting to see international cricket return to Faisalabad after 17 years," Afridi told reporters on Monday. "We are looking forward to performing well against South Africa. The team played good cricket in the T20 series, and we aim to carry that momentum into the ODIs." —*PTI*

ARGENTINA TO GOD'S COUNTRY

Messi & team to visit Kerala in March

MALAPPURAM, 3 NOV

Kerala Sports Minister V Abdurahiman on Monday said the Argentina football team led by star player Lionel Messi will play a match in the state in March next year.

He was speaking at a function related to the Kerala government's Sports Vision 2031 event here. "Two days ago, we received an email from the Argentina team confirming that they will come in March. They also mentioned that an official announcement will be made soon," he said. He said all preparatory works have been completed for the team's visit.

Star player Lionel Messi *PHOTO: X/@LEOMESSI*

Abdurahiman added that the government had earlier intended to host the South American team at the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium in Kochi this month.

"Even though we expected to complete the facilities at the stadium in Kochi, due to some inconvenience, the work could not be finished on time. As the stadium approval was not received, we could not host the match," he said. The minister said changes in the schedule of international matches are common and should not be seen as anyone's victory or defeat."We tried to bring such a major football event to Kerala, and that attempt itself is commendable," he said. As part of promoting the sports economy, the government has decided to host several international sports events in the state, he added.

"Football and cricket have now become part of a large sports economy that employs lakhs. —*PTI*